Annual Report

Legislative Assembly Office 09

and the 2009 Annual Report of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, Alberta Branch and Interparliamentary Relations

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Mission

To provide nonpartisan parliamentary support to the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly as they carry out their roles as elected representatives.

Vision

Respect Tradition

Exemplify Service

Promote Innovation

Values

Impartiality | Integrity | Improvement

Employees of the Legislative Assembly Office (LAO) are proud to provide services to the Legislative Assembly on behalf of the citizens of Alberta. We are guided in our work and conduct by a core set of principles that motivate us as individuals and reflect the qualities of the office as a whole.

Realizing

Efficiencies through Teamwork

"Individually, we are one drop. Together, we are an ocean."

Ryunosuke Satoro

With a pandemic, an economic downturn and a hiring freeze all in the same year, the buzzword in 2009 was teamwork. In fact, the LAO's branches came together like never before, sharing resources and expertise in an effort to tackle the local effects of global issues while at the same time maintaining a high level of service to Members and employees.

Tough times call for reprioritizing. This past year forced us to take a good look at our operations, to get back to the basics of our business and focus on what needed to be done. In some cases this meant that some long-term projects were put on the back burner.

Cover-off plans and needs assessment exercises were completed to ensure those branches with the greatest needs were taken care of first. The best savings can often be found simply by working more efficiently, which always involves working collectively. We saw the success of this in 2009.

Having recently celebrated 30 years of service with the Legislative Assembly of Alberta, I can tell you that ours is a unique environment. The unparalleled responsiveness of employees to maintain the high level of service that is expected from the LAO is a testament to what we stand for in order to support the Members and assist them in supporting their constituents.

They say that hindsight is 20/20, but if 2009 has taught us anything, it is that although you can never anticipate what tomorrow will bring, if you focus on the present and build a solid foundation today, you can weather the storms of tomorrow.

Respectfully submitted,

Ken Kowalski

The Honourable Ken Kowalski, MLA
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly

Speaker's *message*

Our *History*

"An old but relevant adage comes to mind when I look back on the events of 2009: the more things change, the more they stay the same. While 2009 was a turbulent year and its ripples will continue to be felt worldwide, what has and will always remain the same is the commitment of the LAO to pull together as a team no matter what challenges may come our way. This was never more true than it is today."

W.J. David McNeil,
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta

Established in 1983, the origins of Alberta's Legislative Assembly Office can be traced back to 14th century England, when Parliament elected the first Speaker and appointed the first Clerk. The Legislative Assembly Office works hard to uphold and abide by parliamentary tradition while at the same time ensuring our operations are run in a nonpartisan manner and respond to the needs of the Members we serve.

It may come as a surprise to some, but the Legislative Assembly Office is not a government department. The government is the executive branch, responsible for applying and enforcing laws, and the Legislative Assembly is responsible for establishing those laws. We are a separate and unique entity from government with the passion and commitment to provide all Members of the Legislative Assembly, regardless of party affiliation, with the support they need to represent and serve their constituents.

Our Team

"Teamwork is the key to the success of any organization, and true collaboration requires looking beyond your four walls and focusing on the bigger organizational picture."

Rhonda Sorensen,
Manager of Communications Services

Office of the Clerk

Responsible for processing the daily business of the House and providing management and communications support to all branches of the LAO.

The Clerk acts as a liaison at the deputy minister level with government departments and assists in co-ordinating Member participation in interparliamentary activities.

Legal Services – Parliamentary Counsel

Provide legal advice to the Speaker, Members of the Legislative Assembly, LAO staff, caucuses and committees on a wide range of matters as well as advise on parliamentary procedure and draft private Members' public Bills and private Bills. Both Senior Parliamentary Counsel serve as table officers in the House and advise the Speaker on points of order and questions of privilege.

Human Resource Services (HRS)

Consults with the Speaker, Members, caucus, constituency and LAO staff and managers to provide customized human resource management services that support the efficient and effective operation of the Legislative Assembly. HRS manages the integrated in-house payroll system, ensuring fair and equitable classification and compensation levels. Additionally, HRS advises staff, managers and Members on employment and policy issues, consults on unit, branch and organizational structure and plans, manages the recruitment process for nonpartisan positions within the LAO and advises on the recruitment process for partisan positions within caucus and constituency. As the leaders of the health and safety program for the LAO, HRS advises on workplace injury, illness leave and disability management issues. A key role for HRS is to ensure an efficient transition of staff and Members at general elections, by-elections and cabinet shuffles. In support of LAO goals, HRS also co-ordinates learning and development initiatives.

House Services

Along with providing advice on parliamentary procedure, producing the Votes and Proceedings, Order Paper and the *Journals* and maintaining House records, House Services provides all arrangements for the Assembly's standing, special standing and select special committee meetings and assists with expenses, budgets, historical records and transcripts relating to committees. In addition, the recording and publishing of print and electronic versions of *Alberta Hansard*, the official report of the proceedings of the Legislative Assembly and its committees, fall under the responsibility of House Services. This includes the administration of a subscription service to *Alberta Hansard*, Votes and Proceedings, the Order Paper and Bills and the printing and distribution of sessional publications. The *Hansard* staff in the House Services Branch also provide proofreading and editing services to other branches.

Financial Management and Administrative Services (FMAS)

Provides full accounting services such as budget preparation and monitoring, payment processing and financial reporting as well as administrative services, including equipment and supply procurement, telecommunications management, constituency office leasing and credit card administration.

FMAS also handles the responsibilities under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and Records Management Guidelines for the LAO.

Library Services

Offers confidential, nonpartisan, timely and accurate information, news, reference and research services to Members and their staff and all branches of the LAO. As well, Library Services provides training in the use of services that are delivered electronically to the Members' desktops.

Information Technology Services (ITS)

Provides all technology services to the Speaker, Members, caucuses, constituency offices and LAO branches.

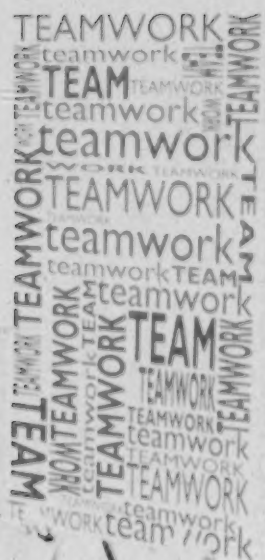
ITS places a major emphasis on supporting the technology interdependencies between clients and ensures the operation of all services, including network infrastructure, application development, hardware and software. Importance is placed on meeting the diverse needs of all stakeholders with new and emerging technologies.

Visitor, Ceremonial and Security Services (VCSS)

Plans and executes ceremonial and special events as well as the co-ordination of school and public outreach programs, Legislature tours and delivery of educational and orientation materials. VCSS is also responsible for operating the Legislative Assembly Gift Shop and co-ordinating permanent and travelling exhibits. Maintaining security systems in the Chamber and precincts, co-ordinating security systems for constituency offices and managing the Legislative Assembly Page program are also responsibilities of VCSS.

Teamwork

doing more together



Tradition

the evolution of tradition

"By its very definition a tradition is reputed to be unwavering and unchanging. While respecting the traditions that founded our parliamentary system, we must also build on this foundation in order for us to continue to effectively support Members and citizens of Alberta both now and in the future."

Shannon Dean, Senior Parliamentary Counsel

Advancing

our services through technology

"The workplace and the workforce are constantly evolving. In today's society accessibility and mobility are key to the success of any organization. This rings particularly true in our unique environment as we support 83 Members that manage offices serving constituents across Alberta. The virtual team is our reality."

Cheryl Scarlett,
Director of Information Technology
and Human Resource Services

ITS comparative statistics

- Workstations
- Servers
- Mobile devices (PDAs and laptops)

Preserving Our History Online

If you were looking for a copy of a Bill from 1906, where would you look? The library? On microfiche? Your desktop? You can already find hundreds of volumes of House documents online, and soon you will be able to access Bills all the way back to 1906. Thanks to a cross-branch initiative to compile this historically significant information, you will eventually be able to access and search all House documents online for as far back as they go. In the case of Bills that would take you all the way back to Alberta's First Legislature in 1906. The availability of this information online will expand accessibility, decrease the need for printed copies and help preserve the original printed volumes.

So what was the biggest challenge? Well, finding the Bills in their original format proved more difficult than anyone could have imagined because not one source had compiled all of the information. The Legislature Library carried Bills back to the 1980s, and the University of Alberta and University of Calgary Law Library's Bills dated back only as far as the 1960s. So it took a bit of sleuthing by LAO staff to uncover records all the way back to Alberta's First Legislature in 1906. After the materials were located and scanned, the information was made searchable and accessible in a user-friendly format. Micheline Gravel, Clerk of *Journals*/Table Research said: "Technology is a wonderful thing. It can bring documents from the past into the present and make them accessible to everyone, thereby ensuring that historical information remains relevant throughout the ages."

Our website has become a tool to ensure that House documents and our history are preserved. Books fall apart after years of use, but online records are sustainable. They decrease our environmental footprint and help us to provide better service to our public.

Gravel sums up the project: "I am really proud of the work done on this initiative. A project like this shows how far we have come and that it is important to embrace technology in preserving historical information."

As a result of the initiative Bills dating back to the 14th Legislature are posted online in searchable PDF format. By the fall of 2010 the goal is to have Bills dating back to the 1930s.

Advancing

our services through technology

"We are committed to providing personalized service to our clients. Technology has not changed this. It has only enhanced our ability to put our clients in touch with a broader range of resources."

Sandra E. Perry, Legislature Librarian

4,805 *electronic Alberta government documents archived*

The Library's Changing Face

Remember the days of sheepishly walking up to the library circulation desk with overdue books in tow? Well, those days are fast becoming a thing of the past. Libraries may have inadvertently solved this problem through technology. Today's library is now fulfilling 24/7, 365-day-a-year service for Members and employees.

"The days of measuring a library's worth by the size of its collection are gone," said Valerie Footz, Manager of Library Operations. "Today we are not restricted by what's in our collection. We can make collections from around the world accessible to our clients at the touch of a mouse." In fact, the Legislature Library is enhancing access to its collection with electronic books (e-books). Expanding the e-books collection means less staff time spent processing and shelving books, which leaves more time for assisting clients. In addition, the e-books are always "on the shelf" and available, alleviating the need for storage space within the library. And with 12,033 e-books available, you can bet there's always something good to read.

Users can now access part of the library's collection, including reference materials, without setting foot in the library. Of course, not everything has changed. Helping clients sift through all the available materials to find reliable sources for accurate information is still priority one.

Advancing

our services through technology

"One of the biggest challenges facing Commonwealth Legislatures today is succession planning. We work in a unique environment supported by highly skilled and specialized teams, and the threat of a shortage of parliamentary experts is very real. In order to fulfill future parliamentary needs and ensure we have a strong foundation to build on, we are adapting our practices today."

Robert Reynolds, QC
Senior Parliamentary Counsel

3,527,703 *words were spoken in the House and committees in 2009*

Educating the Public

New initiatives often come about in response to an identified need. Such is the case with the Graduate Diploma in Legislative Drafting program. Due to the retirement of a large number of drafting experts both in Canada and around the world as well as the limited number of educational opportunities focussing on the field, a shortage of legislative drafting expertise appears to be looming in a wide range of jurisdictions. This is extremely concerning because during the drafting of legislation it is critical that context is clear to ensure accurate interpretation. Drafting experts are fundamental to this process.

Given the current situation, the Legislative Assembly Office recognized the need for a program that could provide both instruction in sound drafting practice and practical experience, allowing graduates to develop their knowledge and apply their skills in various real-world settings.

As a result of the LAO bringing together the Commonwealth of Learning and Athabasca University the Graduate Diploma in Legislative Drafting program was launched in November of 2009. This program will benefit not only Albertans and Canadians but legislators and their constituents worldwide.

"Graduates of the legislative drafting program will have the expertise to undertake diverse and challenging drafting responsibilities with proficiency and confidence," remarked Shannon Dean, Senior Parliamentary Counsel. "The program will teach the principles of legislative drafting in common law jurisdictions and provide students with a foundation in sound drafting practice."

Service

ensuring a healthy work environment

"Building efficiencies is always a challenge but not impossible when you have a great team."

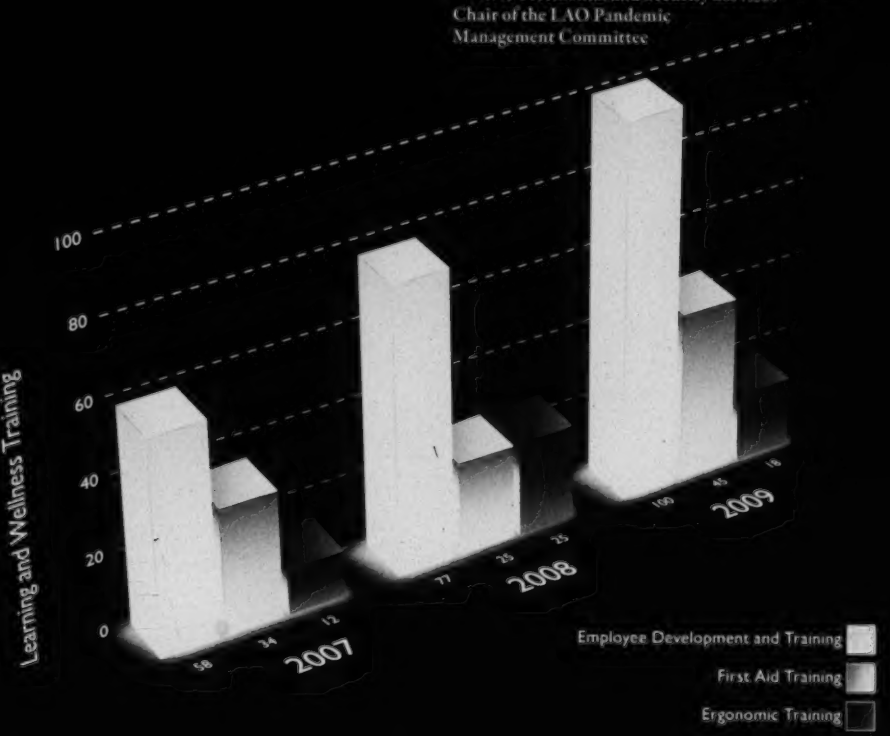
Moyra Johnson, Manager of Human Resource Services

Ensuring

a healthy work environment

"As the pandemic unfolded in 2009, it became apparent that our success in minimizing the effects of the pandemic on Members and employees as well as visitors to the site would rely not only on our ability to pull together as a team but on our ability to expand our team to include experts from relevant outside agencies and organizations."

Brian Hodgson, Sergeant-at-Arms and Director of Visitor, Ceremonial and Security Services
Chair of the LAO Pandemic Management Committee



Ensuring a Healthy Work Environment

Integrating pandemic planning with the existing LAO Health and Wellness program

It was predicted to be the next great plague, resulting in mortality levels not seen since the influenza outbreak of 1918. Known to the layperson as swine flu, the H1N1 influenza virus was labelled by the World Health Organization as a pandemic in early 2009. Although we can now look back and say that it was a mild case, at the time the outlook was unknown and the world was bracing for the worst. Action needed to be taken by the LAO to ensure the health and safety of Members and employees.

Cheryl Scarlett, Director of Human Resource Services, said: "During the pandemic cross-branch collaboration was elevated. Everyone was working toward the same goal of keeping people safe while maintaining a high level of service."

To develop guiding strategies in health promotion, environmental scanning and policy development, the LAO created a cross organizational pandemic management committee. Action was taken by observing the situation both externally and internally. Externally, the global progression of the outbreak was monitored. Internally, staff absences were tracked and alternative work arrangements were developed such as the ability for employees to work from home, cross-training and staff redeployment. As Scarlett notes: "It forced us to think outside of the box and become more flexible and innovative. Our priorities were evaluated daily, and outside environments often dictated how we would manage those priorities."

On the health promotion side communication was essential to the success of the pandemic plan. To ensure all employees had access to accurate and timely information, fact sheets and OurHouse postings were constantly updated as the situation progressed. Employees were encouraged to stay home when ill and adopt safe hygiene practices.

Personal preparedness was emphasized and resources such as surface sanitizers were provided to staff and made available for visitors to the Legislature Building and the Legislature Annex.

Scarlett notes: "It was a learning experience for all of us. We know what worked well and what we can build on in the future. Overall we were encouraged by the willingness of employees to pitch in and help out where they could."

Innovation

greening our workspace

"Greening starts from the ground up. Using the latest technology, we are developing a high-performance, sustainable work environment from foundation to ceiling while minimizing our footprint. Through this project we will be realizing efficiencies in the future."

Scott Ellis, Director of FMAS and Senior Financial Officer

Greening

our workspace

"The Information Technology Services branch is committed to providing our Members and staff with the most advanced IT tools, training, service and support to meet increasing and changing needs of the organization. These initiatives are balanced with the ongoing responsibility to ensure that security of our IT infrastructure is maintained."

Jillian Tilley, Manager of IT Operations

ITS Comparative Statistics

145 million e-mail messages received.

- Total clean and delivered e-mail messages received (1.2%)
- Total spam/threat messages blocked (98.8%)

Go Green Initiative

Nowadays everybody talks about green. Green is a commitment to doing things better. At the LAO green means finding ways to decrease waste, which in the long run should save time and money. In these challenging economic times that just makes good business sense.

One of the mandates of the LAO is ensuring the Assembly's proceedings are documented. *Hansard*, Order Papers, *Journals*, Votes and Proceedings, Bills: each session produces a massive amount of documents and records. In fact, it is commonplace for anywhere from 50 to over 100 Bills to be introduced within a session. Without question all of these records are important and necessary, but what about the paper waste they create? That was the question that inspired the Go Green initiative in 2009.

The initiative involved adding informational sleeves to a week's worth of sessional documents. The sleeves promoted the use of online materials and invited subscribers to discontinue paper subscriptions. The Go Green initiative appealed to subscribers' sense of environmental responsibility and aimed to ultimately reduce paper distribution.

"As people become more comfortable with electronic documents, it makes you stop and look at your processes and ask the question: why are we printing this?" said Liz Sim, Managing Editor of *Hansard*.

So was the initiative successful? You be the judge. In 2007 the daily print run for House documents was almost 3,000 copies. As a result of the Go green initiative this was decreased to just over 2,000 copies. That's a decrease of over 30 percent per day. Amazing, but why stop there? Sim says her eye is now set on implementing electronic House notes for committee and House observation.

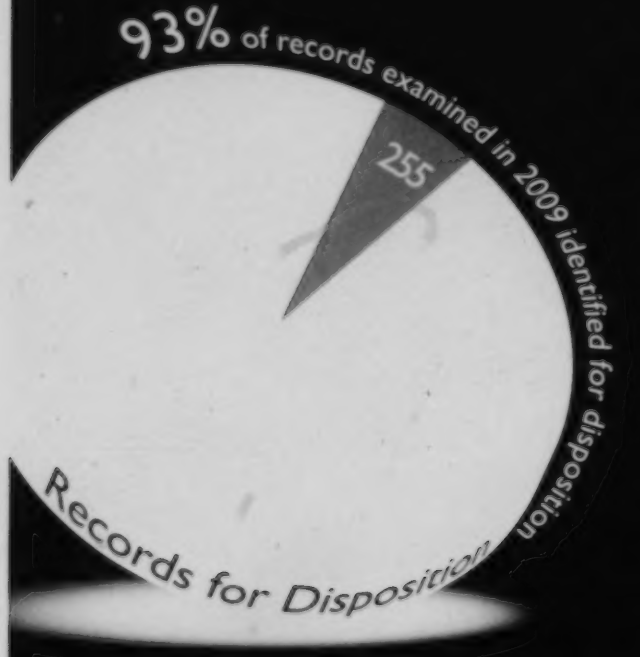
Greening

our workspace

"As colleagues we rely on each other, and together we develop new processes to build a framework where none exists. The information and records management program is assisting the LAO in clearly defining process flow, effectively managing inventory and reducing records."

Jacqueline Brcault,
Manager of Corporate Services, FMAS

Information and Records Management Comparative Statistics



Boxed records stored

Boxed records for disposition

Building for the Future

Not all of 2009 was spent reacting to the pressures that global issues put on the day-to-day operations of the LAO. Some of the year was spent exploring future possibilities. There was much excitement around planning for the refurbishment of the Federal Building, which is expected to open in 2012 as part of the celebration surrounding the 100th anniversary of the Legislature Building.

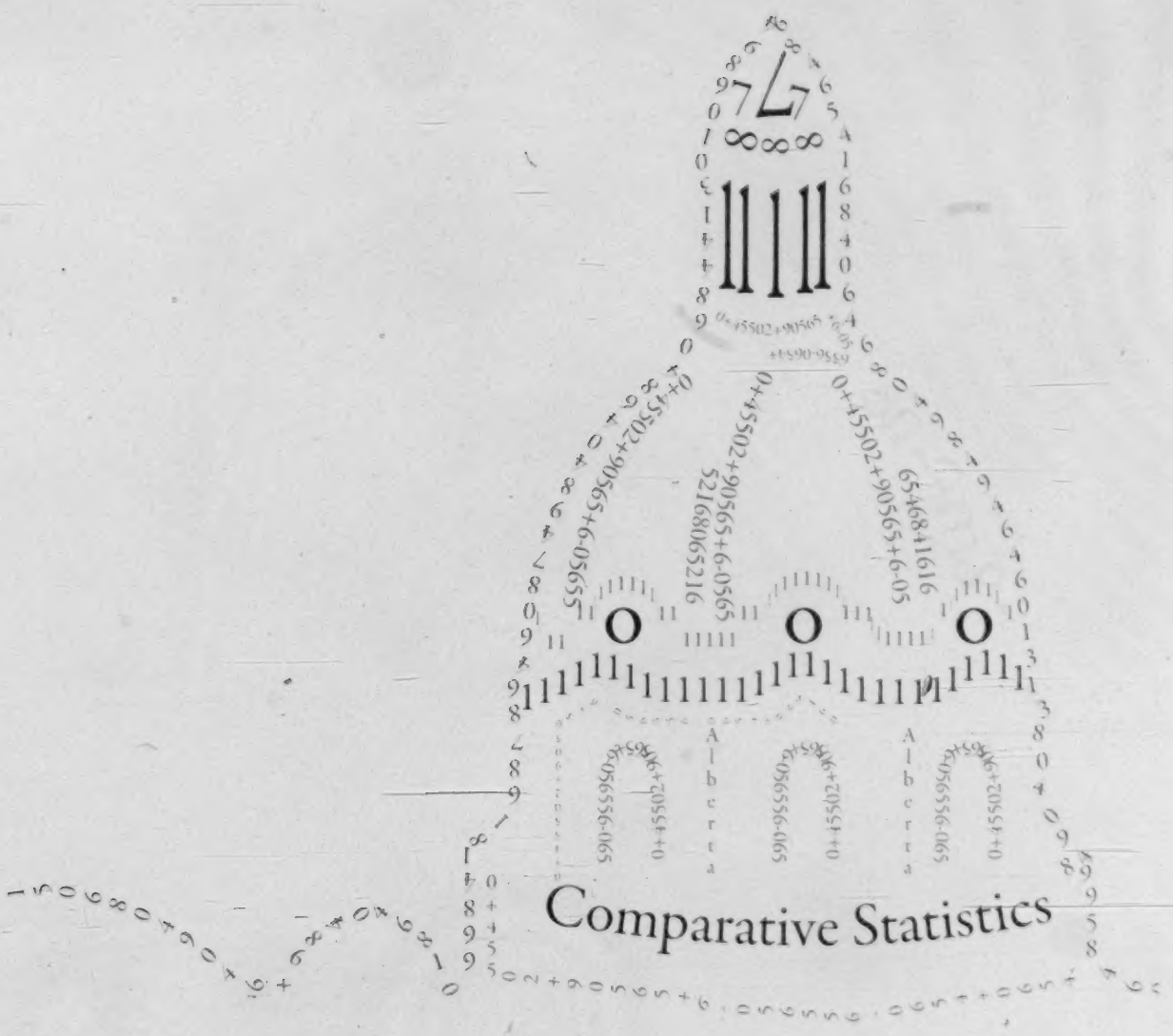
To ensure that all employees have input into what will soon be their new work environment, a series of large and small focus groups was held. In order to determine effective space planning, analyses of branch space requirements were carried out. Notes Scott Ellis, Director of FMAS and Senior Financial Officer, "Throughout the planning process the focus expanded beyond the LAO's immediate needs to anticipate long-term growth and future requirements."

In keeping with the Legislative Assembly's commitment to supporting a healthy and sustainable green environment for both those who work here and those who visit, materials meeting the requirements of a Gold LEED rating were used from the ground up. The Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System™ encourages sustainable green building by adopting universally understood and accepted tools and measurement standards. LEED is an internationally accepted certification standard for the design, construction and operation of high-performance green buildings.

The refurbishment of the Federal Building is an opportunity for the LAO to review current infrastructure for visitor programming and improve upon it. "Planning for the new visitor centre provided us with the rare opportunity to paint on a blank canvas," said Diane Brayman, Manager, Visitor Services. "Our goal is to create an environment that is both engaging and educational to citizens of all ages and backgrounds." In support of the LAO's mandate to educate the public on the parliamentary system in Alberta the proposed visitor centre will offer a variety of exhibits, activities and programs, creating opportunities for public participation.

Comparative

Statistics



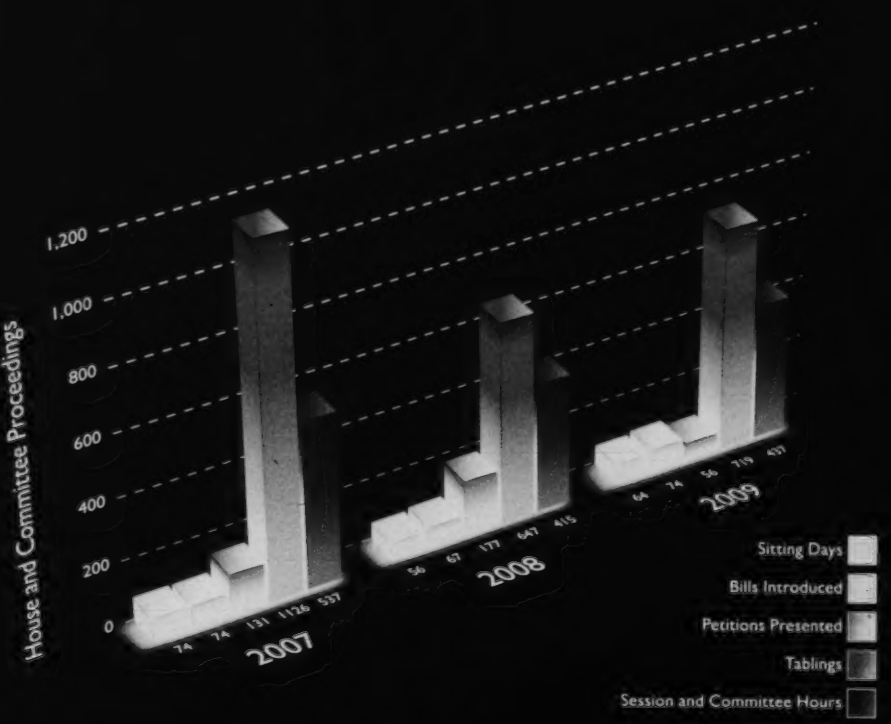
Comparative

Assembly and Committee Proceedings

"In 2009 the main estimates of government departments were referred to the policy field committees according to each committee's respective mandates. Over the course of four weeks 23 departments had to be reviewed. That meant two meetings were held nightly, three nights a week. In order to support the expanded committee scope, the LAO team consolidated efforts."

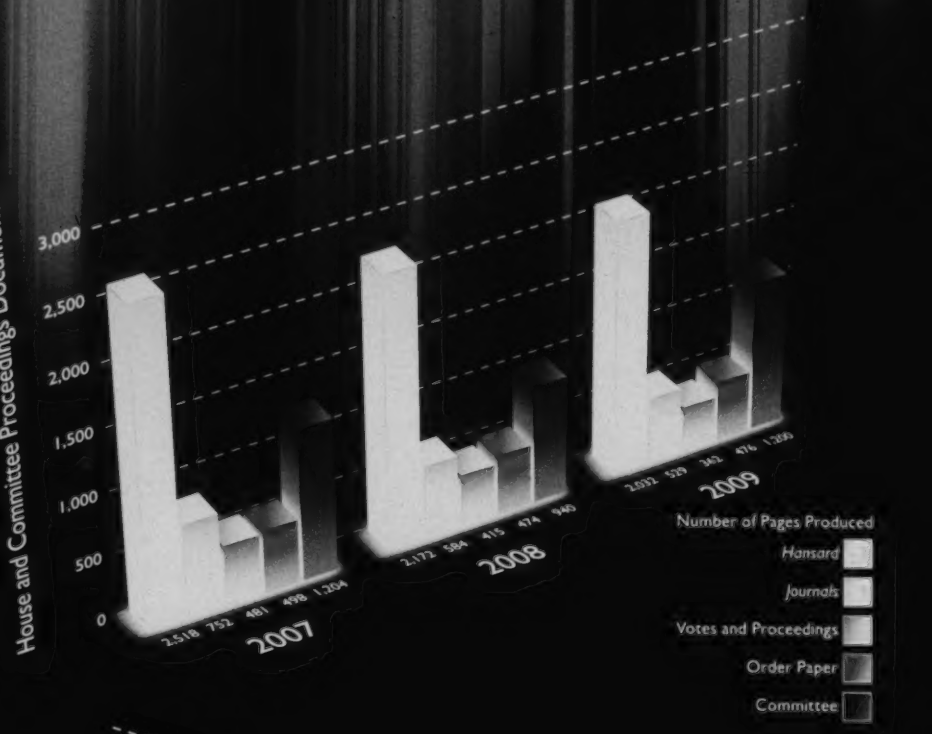
Louise Kamuchik, Director of House Services and Clerk Assistant

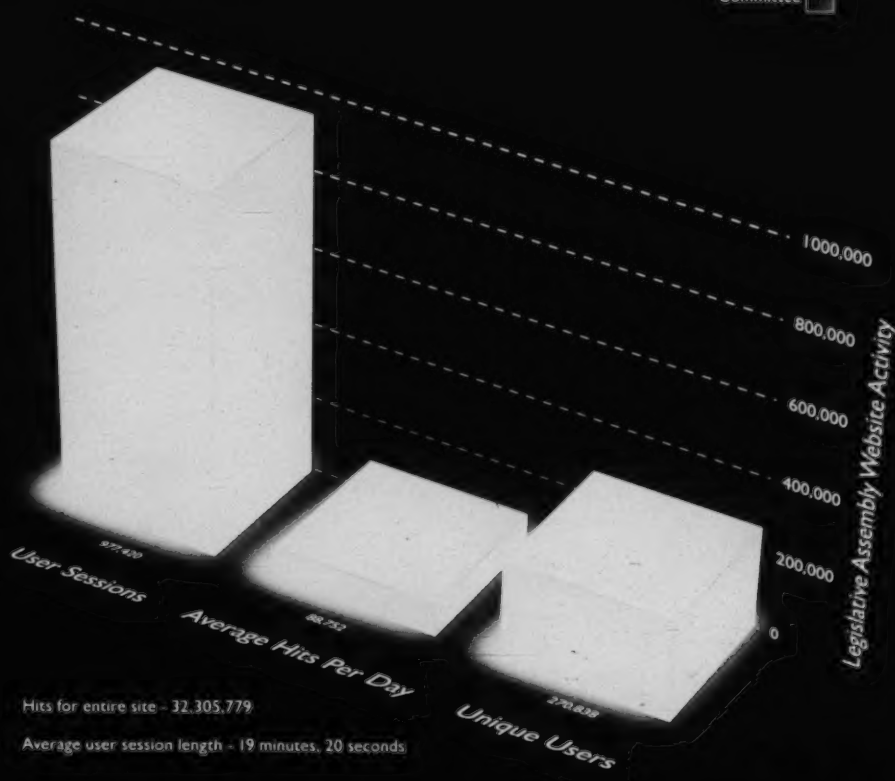
In 2009, 81 committee meetings were reported



Statistics

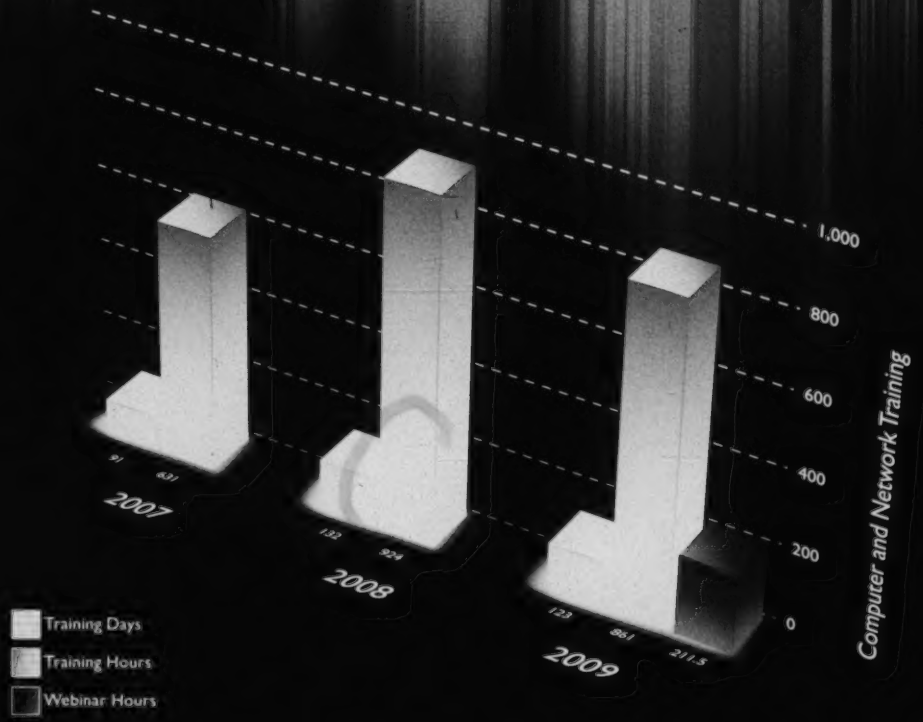
Assembly and Committee Proceedings

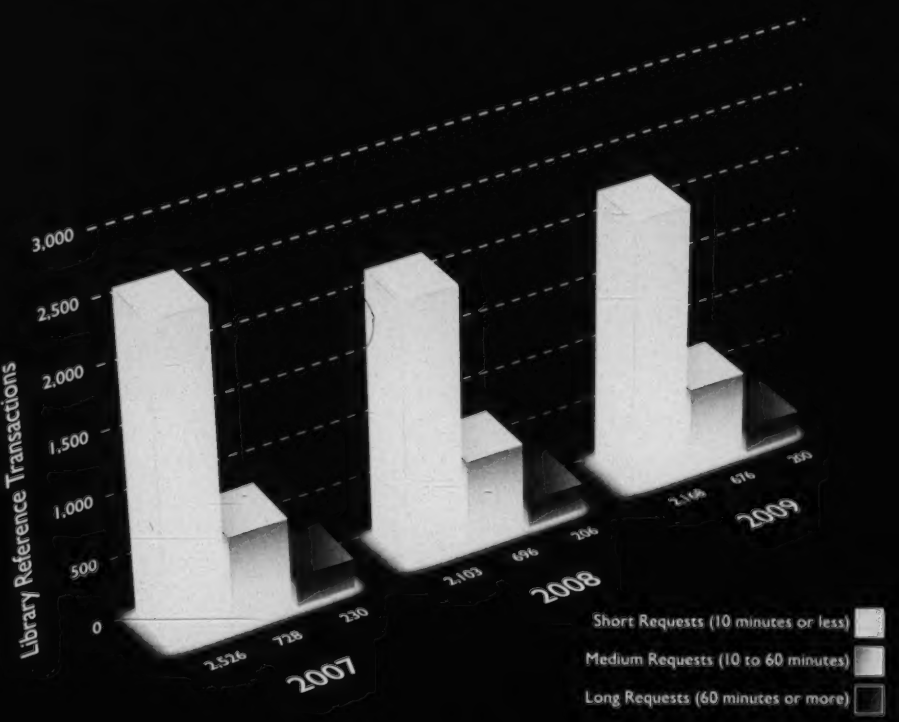




Comparative

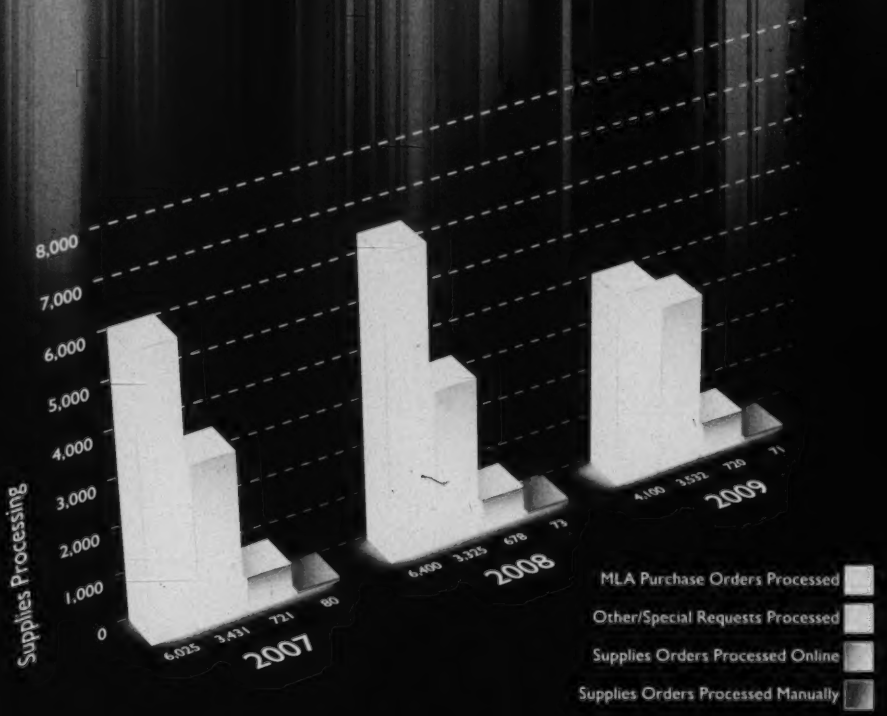
Operational

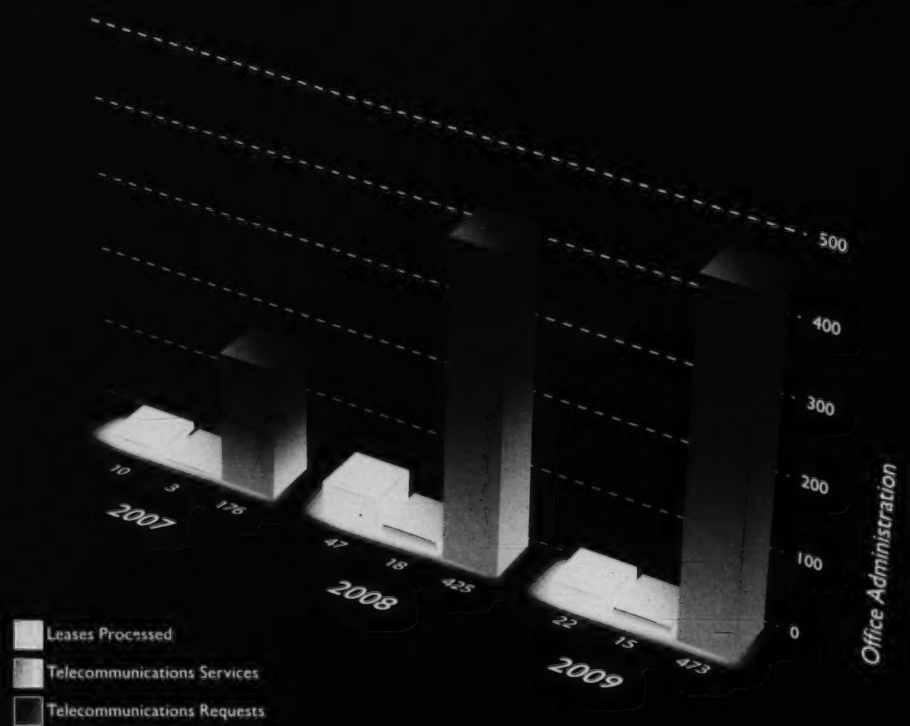




Statistics

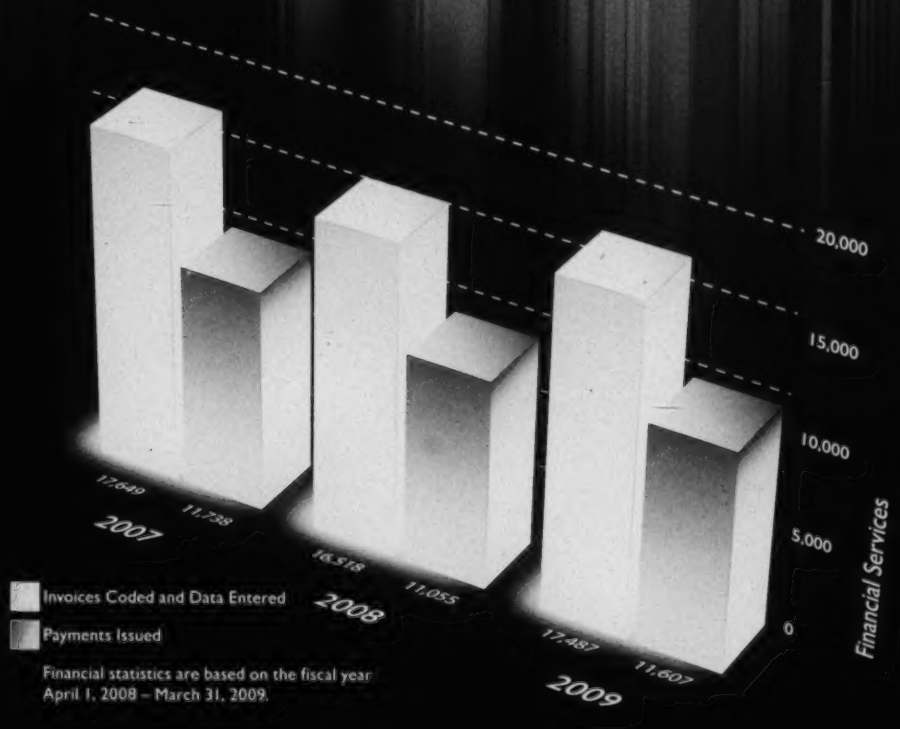
Operational



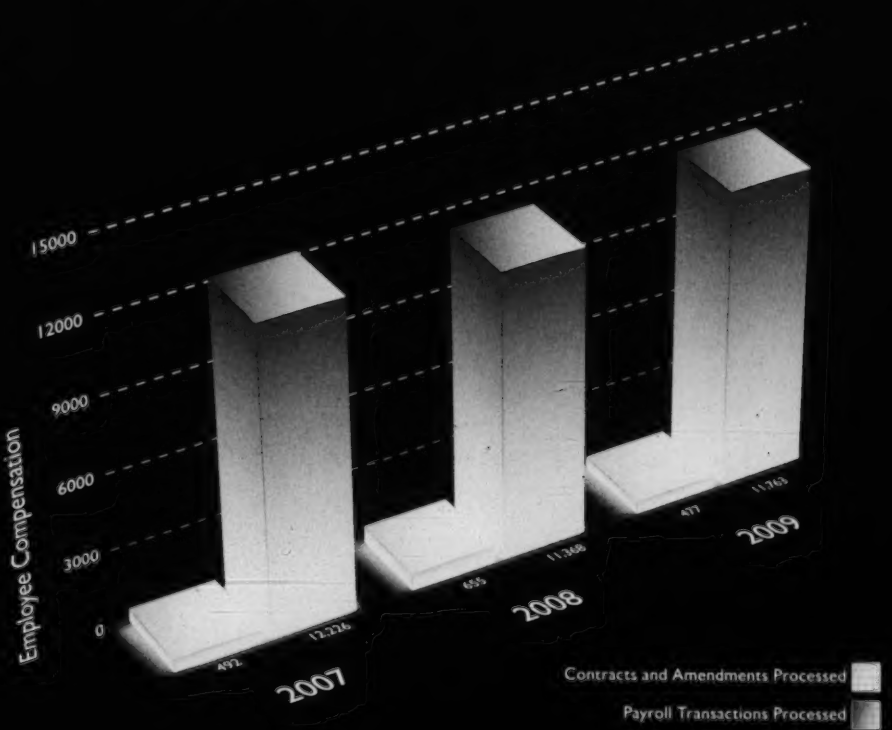


Comparative

Operational

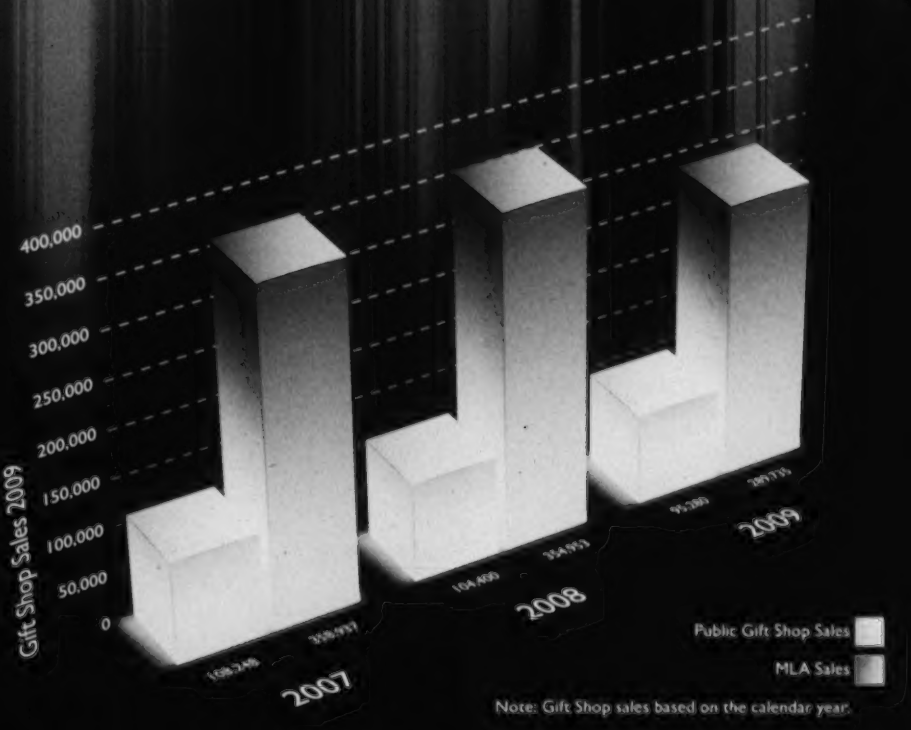


Financial statistics are based on the fiscal year April 1, 2008 – March 31, 2009.

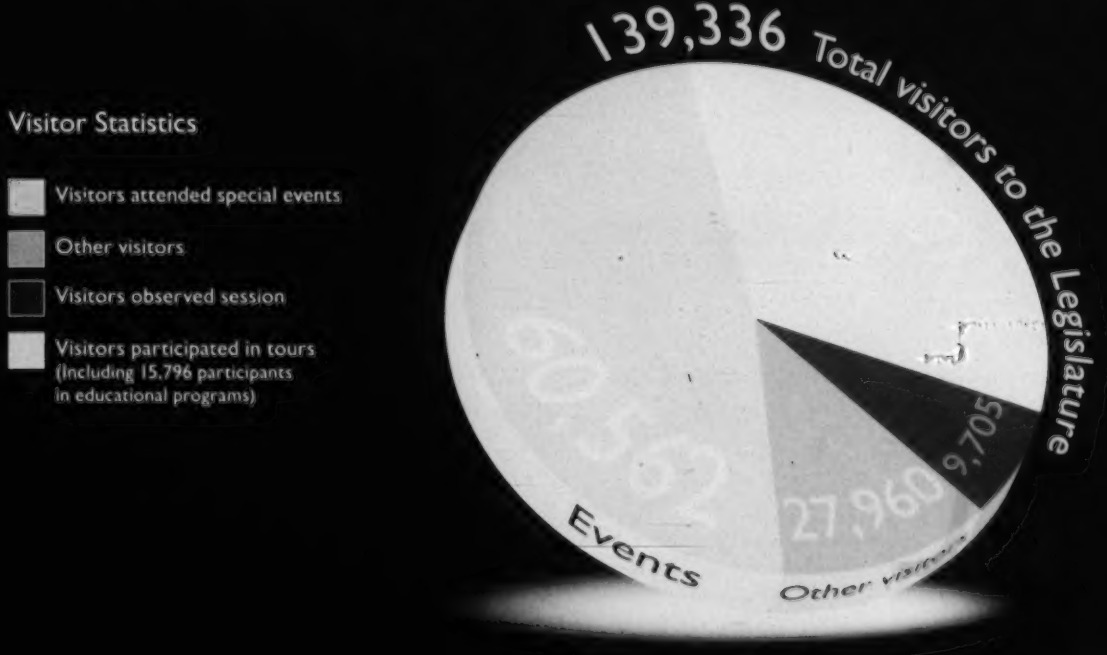


Statistics

Operational



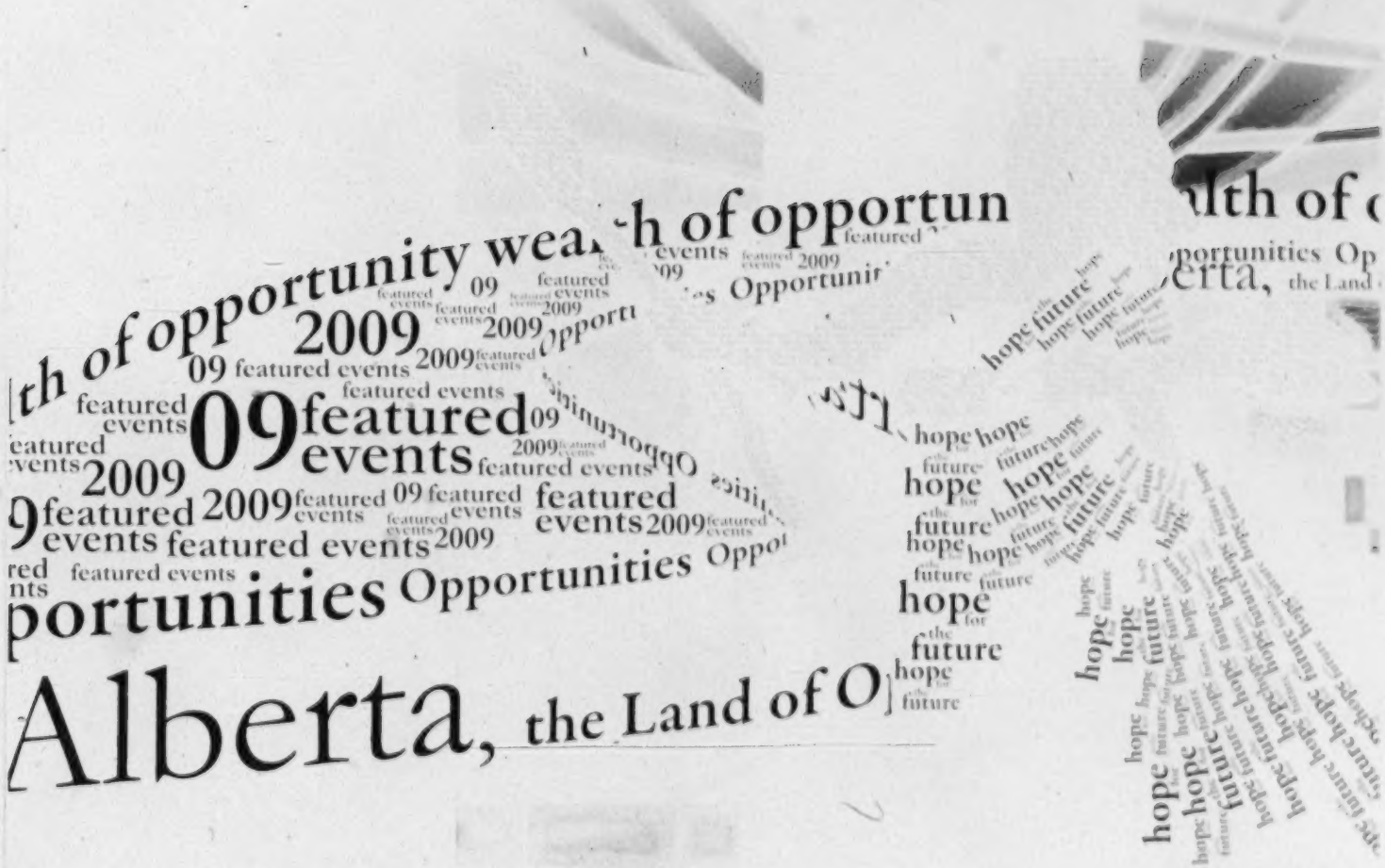
Note: Gift Shop sales based on the calendar year.



Featured

Events

The Legislative Assembly annually hosts a myriad of events to celebrate Alberta's history, culture and citizens. The following are highlights from 2009.



Featured

Events

"Within the Canadian Asian community there is broad diversity of ethnic, religious and linguistic groups whose ancestries, immigration histories and personal experiences are quite varied. This diversity should be embraced and celebrated as it is the very fabric of our nation. Diversity can only make us stronger as it is a large part of how many of us choose to define the Canada in which we want to live."

Hon. Speaker Kowalski

Asian Heritage Month (ImaginAsian)

May 6

Asian Heritage Month was celebrated May 6, 2009, in an event hosted by Hon. Speaker Kowalski. Also in the official party were Teresa Woo-Paw, MLA, Calgary-Mackay, and Darshan Kang, MLA, Calgary-McCall. A presentation was made by Dr. Mayt Arcellana-Panlilio, co-chair of the Asian Heritage Foundation, to Ron Sheppard, chair of the Parkland regional library system. ImaginAsian celebrates Canada's Asian heritage and recognizes the important contributions of Asian Canadians to the settlement, growth and social and cultural development of Canada.

"I believe it is incumbent upon all of us to keep our nation united. I urge you to explore your own definition for aboriginal culture and what it means in terms of our history, our present and our future."

Hon. Speaker Kowalski

Aboriginal History and Culture Month

June 1

Aboriginal History and Culture Month was celebrated in the Legislature Rotunda on June 1, hosted by Hon. Speaker Kowalski, Alexis First Nation Honourary Chief Wa-she-zu-Chaida-oo-sheqe-na (White Man with a Kind Heart), in conjunction with Aboriginal Relations Minister Gene Zwozdesky, Mákoonyomakhka (Chief Running Wolf). Also offering remarks were Pearl Calahasen, MLA, Lesser Slave Lake; Dr. Willie Littlechild, Regional Chief, Assembly of First Nations; Chief Allan Paul, Alexander First Nation, Treaty 6; Chief Rose Laboucan, Grand Chief, Treaty 8; Audrey Poitras, President, Métis Nation of Alberta Association; and Gerald Cunningham, President, Métis Settlements General Council. This celebration commemorated the contributions of the aboriginal community to the prosperity of this province.

Featured

Events

Featured

Events

"I, Paul Hinman,

Do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance

To Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

Her heirs and successors according to law.

So help me God."

Member Swearing-in
October 13

Paul Hinman, MLA representing the constituency of Calgary-Glenmore for the Wildrose Alliance, was sworn in as a Member of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta in the Legislature Chamber on October 13, 2009, following his by-election win on September 14.

"The City of Edmonton has given the Legislative Assembly of Alberta a unique gift commemorating the 2006 celebration of 100 years of democracy of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta. This kind gesture celebrates the beautiful resources and landscape of Alberta as well as the opportunities and hope for the future of our beloved province."

Hon. Speaker Kowalski

Unveiling of Stained Glass Window in Chamber
October 28

The City of Edmonton gifted the Legislative Assembly a stained glass window commemorating the 2006 celebration of 100 years of democracy of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta. On October 28, 2009, the window was unveiled in the Legislature Chamber and now graces the public gallery.

Featured

Events

Featured

Events

"When the Act was passed in this House, I was proud to be a Member of this Assembly and proud to be an Albertan for on that day we demonstrated what it truly means to be an Albertan. It means we value democratic freedoms, human rights and the rule of law. We honour the values of compassion and honesty and cherish the multicultural vibrancy of the province."

Hon. Speaker Kowalski

Holodomor Memorial Day Commemoration

November 23

An event to commemorate the first anniversary of the Ukrainian Famine and Genocide (Holodomor) Memorial Day Act was held on November 23, 2009. Remarks were shared by Hon. Ed Stelmach, Premier of Alberta; Hon. Gene Zwozdesky, co-chair, Advisory Council on Alberta-Ukraine Relations; Ms. Daria Luciw, president, Ukrainian Canadian Congress - Alberta Provincial Council; and Holodomor survivor Mr. Leonid Korownyk.

Financial

Statements

As at March 31, 2009

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AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly

I have audited the statement of financial position of the Legislative Assembly Office as at March 31, 2009 and the statements of changes in net assets, operations, and cash flows for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Office's management. My responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on my audit.

I conducted my audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that I plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In my opinion, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Office as at March 31, 2009 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.

Fred J. Dunn FCA
Auditor General

Edmonton, Alberta
July 9, 2009

Statement of Financial Position

	2009	2008
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Cash	$27,842,890	$29,288,507
Accounts receivable and advances	523,105	242,053
Inventory held for resale	208,364	242,146
	28,574,359	29,772,706
Capital assets (Note 4)	1,976,759	1,751,354
	30,551,118	**31,524,060**
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	2,648,113	2,722,602
Vacation pay liability	1,261,553	1,046,124
	3,909,666	3,768,726
Members' transition allowance liability (Note 6)	18,317,096	19,279,503
Net assets	8,324,356	8,475,831
	$30,551,118	**$31,524,060**

The accompanying notes and schedules are part of these financial statements.

Statement of Changes in Net Assets

	2009	2008
Net assets at beginning of year	$8,475,831	$5,029,110
Net operating results	(50,557,356)	(43,979,415)
Net transfer from general revenues	50,405,881	47,426,136
Net assets at end of year	**$8,324,356**	**$8,475,831**

The accompanying notes and schedules are part of these financial statements.

Statement of Operations

	2009		2008
	BUDGET	ACTUAL	ACTUAL
REVENUES			
Gift shop sales, services and fees	$550,000	$461,501	$504,002
Other		266,655	253,038
Contribution from Alberta Infrastructure for accommodations costs provided at no charge (Note 5)		667,098	624,687
	550,000	**1,395,254**	**1,381,727**
EXPENSES			
Voted (See note 8):			
Alberta Alliance Opposition services	-	-	113,236
Caucus contingency funding	1,512,000	-	-
Financial management and administrative services	1,174,000	1,046,502	1,003,337
Government Members' services	3,242,000	3,022,202	2,148,566
House Services	8,418,000	7,204,193	5,800,408
Human Resource Services	1,439,000	1,195,788	1,125,702
Independent Member's Services	-	-	153,000
Information Technology Services	3,614,000	3,227,976	2,768,962
Legislative committees	972,000	2,001,785	372,896
Legislature Library	2,600,000	2,529,911	2,318,699
MLA Administration	30,860,000	28,537,437	26,597,766
NDP Opposition services	362,000	541,687	663,399
Office of the Speaker	521,000	518,174	457,475
Official Opposition services	1,127,000	1,466,537	1,894,475
	55,841,000	**51,292,192**	**45,417,921**
Valuation Adjustments:			
Accommodation costs (Note 5)		667,098	624,687
Capitalization of assets expensed as supplies (Note 3b)		(1,234,187)	(752,880)
Amortization of capital assets (Note 3b)		1,008,782	969,834
Reduction in member's transition allowance liability (Note 6)		(30,486)	(946,186)
Provision for vacation pay liability		215,429	55,124
Net consumption (purchase) of inventory		33,782	(7,358)
		660,418	(56,779)
	55,841,000	51,952,610	45,361,142
Net operating results	**$ (55,291,000)**	**$ (50,557,356)**	**$ (43,979,415)**

The accompanying notes and schedules are part of these financial statements.

Statement Of Cash Flows

	2009	2008
Operating transactions		
Net operating results	($50,557,356)	($43,979,415)
Add non-cash charges:		
Amortization of capital assets	1,008,782	969,834
Increase in vacation pay liability	215,429	55,124
(Increase) decrease in accounts receivable and advances	(281,052)	150,773
Decrease (increase) in inventory	33,782	(7,358)
Increase (decrease) in accounts payable and accrued liabilities	(74,489)	292,549
Increase (decrease) in transition allowance liability	(962,407)	710,526
Cash used by operating transactions	(50,617,311)	(41,807,967)
Investing transactions:		
Acquisition of capital assets	(1,234,187)	(752,880)
Financing Transactions:		
Net transfer from general revenues	50,405,881	47,426,136
Net cash provided	(1,445,617)	4,865,289
Cash, beginning of year	29,288,507	24,423,218
Cash, end of year	**$27,842,890**	**$29,288,507**

The accompanying notes and schedules are part of these financial statements.

Legislative Assembly Office
Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended March 31, 2009

NOTE 1
Authority

The Legislative Assembly Office (the "Office") is operated under the authority of the Legislative Assembly Act. Annual operating budgets are approved by the Special Standing Committee on Members' Services.

NOTE 2
Purpose

Within the traditions of parliamentary democracy as constitutionally established in Alberta, the Legislative Assembly Office will:

1. Support the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly in carrying out the duties of office.
2. Support Members by providing services, advice, information and infrastructure required to carry out their roles as elected representatives.
3. Record the proceedings and maintain and preserve the records of the Legislative Assembly.
4. Inform and educate the public on behalf of Members and the institution of Parliament.
5. Provide a positive, productive, healthy and secure environment for Members and staff of the Assembly.
6. Support the Assembly in protecting its institutions and privileges.
7. Support the exchange of ideas/information among Parliaments.
8. Build partnerships with external clients in support of the institution of Parliament.

NOTE 3
Summary of Significant Accounting Policies and Reporting Practices

These financial statements are prepared in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles for the public sector as recommended by the Public Sector Accounting Board of the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants.

a) Reporting Entity

The reporting entity is the Legislative Assembly Office, for which the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly is responsible.

The Office operates within the General Revenue Fund (the "Fund"). The Fund is administrated by the Minister of Finance and Enterprise. All receipts of the Office are deposited into the Fund and all disbursements made by the Office are paid from the Fund. The net transfer from the Fund is the difference between all cash receipts and all cash disbursements made.

b) Basis of Financial Reporting

Revenues

All revenues are reported on the accrual basis of accounting.

Expenses

Expenses represent the costs of resources consumed during the year in the Office's operations.

Valuation Adjustments

Valuation adjustments include changes in the valuation allowances used to reflect assets at their net recoverable or other appropriate value. Valuation adjustments also represent the change in management's estimate of future payments arising from obligations relating to vacation pay and transition allowance. Furthermore, accommodation costs, provided by Alberta Infrastructure at no cost, are included in valuation adjustments so as to show the entire cost of the operation of the Office.

Assets

Financial assets of the Office are limited to financial claims such as cash, advances to and accounts receivable from other organizations, employees and other individuals.

Inventory held for resale is reported at the lower of cost and net realizable value.

Capital assets of the Office are recorded at cost and amortized on a straight-line basis, over the estimated useful lives of the assets, invoiced at $2,500 or greater, as follows:

Computer hardware and software	2 years
Office equipment	5 years
Furniture	10 years

The Office follows government budgetary practices that allow funds from an operating budget to be used to purchase capital assets. These purchases are included in expenses on the statement of operations, but are then removed from expenses through a valuation adjustment and are capitalized and amortized over their useful lives.

The fair value of cash and accounts receivable and advances are estimated to approximate their carrying values.

Liabilities

Liabilities include all financial claims payable by the Office at fiscal year end.

The Members' transition allowance is estimated based on Members' years of service and their most recent remuneration amounts. The annual charge is the amount that is estimated to have been earned by Members during the year.

The fair values of accounts payable and accrued liabilities, and Members' transition allowance are estimated to approximate their carrying values.

Net Assets

Net assets represent the difference between the value of assets held by the Office and its liabilities.

NOTE 4

Capital Assets

	Furniture	Computer hardware and software	Office equipment	2009 TOTAL	2008 TOTAL
Estimated Useful Life	10 years	2 years	5 years		
Historical Cost					
Beginning of Year	$2,682,809	$2,893,500	$348,343	$5,924,652	$5,171,772
Additions	421,991	805,156	7,040	1,234,187	752,880
Disposals, Including Write-Downs	-	(724,644)	-	(724,644)	(803,653)
	$3,104,800	$2,974,012	$355,383	$6,434,195	$5,120,999
Accumulated Amortization					
Beginning of Year	$1,302,144	$2,628,112	$243,042	$4,173,298	$3,203,464
Amortization Expense	299,100	667,966	41,716	1,008,782	969,834
Effect of Disposals	-	(724,644)	-	(724,644)	(803,653)
	$1,601,244	$2,571,434	$284,758	$4,457,436	$3,369,645
Net Book Value at March 31, 2009	**$1,503,556**	**$402,578**	**$70,625**	**$1,976,759**	-
Net Book Value at March 31, 2008	**$1,380,665**	**$265,388**	**$105,301**		**$1,751,354**

NOTE 5

Contribution from Alberta Infrastructure

Included in the $667,098 (2008- $624,687) contribution from Alberta Infrastructure is $60,000 for renovations to the 5th floor of the Legislature Annex.

NOTE 6

Members' Transition Allowance Liability

The Office implemented a Members' transition allowance on October 1, 1998. The provisions of the allowance were established in accordance with the Members' Allowances Order (RMSC 1992, c. M-1, as amended, Section 9).

A transition allowance is paid to every Member at the time of dissolution of the Legislature unless they are re-elected in the next election. Members who resign their seats are also eligible for the allowance.

Under section 9, the amount paid for service commencing on or after March 20, 1989, is determined by multiplying three months salary, based on the average monthly salary for the three calendar years in which the person received their highest salary, by the number of years the person served as a Member on or after March 20, 1989. "Salary" is defined in section 9(1). For service periods prior to March 20, 1989, the allowance is calculated by multiplying the highest rate of a Member's monthly indemnity and expense allowances for one month for every year of service prior to March 20, 1989 with no restrictions. There is no credit for years of service for which the Member has previously received a payment under Section 9 or the predecessor section. Eligible recipients may elect to be paid the allowance over a period of up to four years.

In the event of death of an active Member, a transition allowance equivalent to the amount owed at passing is paid to the Member's estate.

	2009	2008
Liability at beginning of year	$19,279,503	$18,568,977
Total transition allowance payments	(5,131,921)	(2,618,289)
Total transition allowance expense	4,169,514	3,328,814
Liability at end of year	**$18,317,096**	**$19,279,503**
Voted expense	$4,200,000	$4,275,000
Valuation adjustment	(30,486)	(946,186)
Total transition allowance expense	**$4,169,514**	**$3,328,814**

NOTE 7
Defined Benefit Plans

The Office participates in the following multi-employer pension plans: Management Employees Pension Plan and Public Service Pension Plan. The Office also participates in the multi-employer Supplementary Retirement Plan for Public Service Managers. The expense for these pension plans is equivalent to the annual contributions of $1, 276,578 for the year ending March 31, 2009 (2008 - $1,079,512).

At December 31, 2008, the Management Employees Pension Plan reported a deficiency of $568,574,000 (2007 – $84,341,000) and the Public Service Pension Plan reported a deficiency of $1,187,538,000 (2007 – $92,509,000 as restated). At December 31, 2008, the Supplementary Retirement Plan for Public Service Managers had a deficiency of $7,111,000 (2007- surplus of $1,510,000).

The Department also participates in two multi-employer Long Term Disability Income Continuance Plans. At March 31, 2009, the Bargaining Unit Plan reported an actuarial deficiency of $33,540,000 (2008 – $6,319,000) and the Management, Opted Out and Excluded Plan an actuarial deficiency of $1,051,000 (2008 – actuarial surplus of $7,874,000). The expense for these two plans is limited to the employer's annual contributions for the year.

NOTE 8
Budget

EXPENSES	
2008-2009 budget[a]	$55,841,000
2008-2009 Supplementary Estimate[b]	1,990,000
2008-2009 actual expenses (excluding valuation adjustments)	51,292,192
2008-2009 unexpended (excluding valuation adjustments)	**$6,538,808**

(a) 2008-09 Offices of the Legislative Assembly Estimates presented April 22, 2008.

(b) 2008-09 Supplementary Supply Estimates presented Fall 2008. Appropriation (Supplementary Supply) Act 2008 (No. 2) was approved on December 4, 2008.

NOTE 9
Contractual Obligations

The aggregate amounts payable in 2010 for unexpired contracts is as follows:

Leased Properties	$1,545,000
Office Equipment Rental	$332,950

NOTE 10
Approval of Financial Statements

These financial statements were approved by the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly.

SCHEDULE 1

Expenses Detailed by Object
For the Year Ended March 31, 2009

	2009		2008
	BUDGET [a]	ACTUAL	ACTUAL
EXPENSES:			
Salaries, wages and employer contributions	$23,597,115	$20,507,837	$18,727,267
Supplies and services	16,502,385	14,257,150	12,170,394
Grants	7,000	450	200
Payments to MLAs and Executive Council	17,724,500	16,526,755	14,520,060
Total Voted Expenses	**$57,831,000**	**$51,292,192**	**$45,417,921**

(a) Budget amounts include supplementary estimate (see note 8).

SCHEDULE 2

Salary and Benefits Disclosure

	2009				2008
	Base Salary (1)	Other Cash Benefits (2)	Other Non-cash Benefits (3)	Total	Total*
Senior official					
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly [4]	$253,668	$36,014	$59,801	$349,483	$312,169
Senior Management Team					
Senior Parliamentary Counsel	167,420	16,581	43,290	227,291	200,397
Director, Information Technology and Human Resource Services	150,668	19,017	37,283	206,968	184,280
Senior Parliamentary Counsel	167,420	16,581	43,668	227,669	201,527
Clerk Assistant and Director of House Services	127,764	15,332	31,555	174,651	148,355
Legislature Librarian	114,192	12,376	28,051	154,619	141,027
Director of Visitor, Ceremonial, & Security	115,758	12,589	28,828	157,175	140,865
Director of Financial Management and Administrative Services and Senior Financial Officer	117,684	15,248	29,224	162,156	142,746

Prepared in accordance with Treasury Board Directive 12/98 as amended.

(1) Base salary includes pensionable base pay.

(2) Other cash benefits include bonuses, lump sum payments, and reimbursement for Learning and Wellness Accounts.

(3) Other non-cash benefits include the Legislative Assembly Office's share of all employee benefits and contributions or payments made on behalf of employees including pension, supplementary retirement plans, health care, dental coverage, group life insurance, short- and long-term disability plans, WCB premiums, professional memberships and tuition fees.

(4) Automobile is provided, no dollar amount included in benefits and allowances figures.

* 2007-2008 Total is restated to conform to reporting standards for achievement bonuses. The 2007-2008 amounts originally included the amounts paid out (cash basis) versus amounts allocated (accrual basis) for the 2007-2008 fiscal year. This restatement removes the cash payments and replaces them with the accrued and allocated amounts for each position.

Commonwealth

Parliamentary Association

Alberta Branch

CPA|51

President's *Report*

"We cannot look to parliamentary precedent to assist us with ushering in this new era of technology. In these instances, interparliamentary relations become invaluable as we work with our colleagues in other jurisdictions for insight and guidance into developing policies around the use of technology."

Hon. Ken Kowalski, President of the Alberta Branch of the CPA and Speaker of the Legislative Assembly

Canadian Regional Conference Brings Technology to the Forefront

At the Canadian Regional Conference held in Toronto from July 18 to 24, a wide variety of topics were discussed, but of particular interest to me were the discussions on Technology in the Legislature: The Newfoundland and Labrador Experience So Far, led by Edward Buckingham.

As our Legislative Assembly has recently been faced with the issue of how to balance technology with tradition, I enjoyed being part of a larger group discussion with others who are facing the same issue.

While there is no doubt that technology creates greater opportunities for citizens to participate in the day-to-day proceedings of their Legislative Assembly, technology must be balanced in order to maintain the traditions that our parliamentary system is built on.

We are now seeing ourselves in unfamiliar territory. We cannot look to parliamentary precedent to assist us with ushering in this new era of technology. In these instances, interparliamentary relations become invaluable as we work with our colleagues in other jurisdictions for insight and guidance into developing policies around the use of technology. At first glance technology seems fundamentally at odds with tradition, but if we take strategic steps and create guidelines on how to bridge the gap between the two, it can work to our benefit. It is clear that as technology continues to evolve and become more accessible, the public and the Legislative Assembly will need to adapt to meet the needs of both legislators and citizens.

I would like to thank all Members for their involvement with conferences and especially those Members who presented on behalf of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta. Art Johnston presented on the topic Protecting the Public: Alberta's Safe Communities Project, and Teresa Woo-Paw presented on the topic Creating Welcoming Communities. It is great to see Members acting as ambassadors for our province while making connections that will continue in the future.

Secretary's Report

Joint Conference held in Alberta Featured Everything Finance

In 2009 Alberta was honoured to host the 30th Joint Conference of the Canadian Council of Public Accounts Committees and the Canadian Council of Legislative Auditors from September 13 to 16. Delegates came from across Canada and various international locations. This conference is unique in that auditors and Members serving as chairs of Public Accounts Committees meet to work collaboratively. I enjoyed being part of the introductory ceremonies.

The seeds for this partnership were planted back in 1978, when T. Patrick Reid, chair of the Ontario Standing Committee on Public Accounts, attended the annual Conference of Legislative Auditors in Edmonton. A year later the first joint conference was held in Newfoundland.

The two councils came together out of a commitment to ensuring financial accountability and serving the public interest. Although their roles are independent in action and distinctly separate, together auditors and Public Accounts Committee chairs ensure parliaments across Canada fulfill one of their most important roles, holding the governments accountable for their stewardship of public funds.

Hosting conferences at the national level can be challenging, but the expanded perspective gained through interparliamentary relations and the opportunity to highlight our province are well worth the time and effort. I thank all Members, auditors and staff of the LAO and the office of the Auditor General for the work put forth in organizing and running this conference.

"Hosting conferences at the national level can be challenging, but the expanded perspective gained through interparliamentary relations and the opportunity to highlight our province are well worth the time and effort."

W.J. David McNeil, Secretary of the Alberta Branch of the CPA and Clerk of the Legislative Assembly

Bursaries

Bursaries are presented annually to nominees from TUXIS Parliament of Alberta and the Alberta Girls' Parliament to increase interest in the parliamentary process among Alberta's youth.

Recipients

- TUXIS Parliament of Alberta: Nicole Larsen, Strathcona
- Alberta Girls' Parliament: Sarah Knowles, Calgary-Shaw, and Shelby Vincent, Highwood

Grade 6 Essay

A province-wide essay contest is held annually for Grade 6 students to encourage greater awareness of the Commonwealth and the parliamentary system.

Recipients:

- First place winner: Jack Quest, Wye School, Strathcona
- Second place winners: Katelyn Borle, Mills Haven Elementary School, Sherwood Park, and Kevin Yin, Wye School, Strathcona

Commonwealth

Parliamentary Association

HON. CINDY ADY
PC
Calgary-Shaw
Minister of Tourism, Parks and Recreation

KEN ALLRED
PC
St. Albert

MOE AMERY
PC
Calgary-East

ROB ANDERSON
PC
Airdrie-Chestermere
Parliamentary Assistant, Solicitor General and Public Security (to 09/16/09)

CARL BENITO
PC
Edmonton-Mill Woods

EVAN BERGER
PC
Livingstone-Macleod
Parliamentary Assistant, Sustainable Resource Development

NARESH BHARDWAJ
PC
Edmonton-Ellerslie

MANMEET SINGH BHULLAR
PC
Calgary-Montrose
Parliamentary Assistant, Advanced Education and Technology

HON. LINDSAY BLACKETT
PC
Calgary-North West
Minister of Culture and Community Spirit

LAURIE BLAKEMAN
AL
Edmonton-Centre
Official Opposition House Leader

GUY BOUTILIER
IND
Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo
PC (to 7/17/2009)

DR. NEIL BROWN, QC
PC
Calgary-Nose Hill

PEARL CALAHASEN
PC
Lesser Slave Lake

ROBIN CAMPBELL
PC
West Yellowhead
Deputy Government Whip

WAYNE CAO
PC
Calgary-Fort
Deputy Speaker, Chair of Committees

HARRY B. CHASE
AL
Calgary-Varsity
Official Opposition Whip

CAL DALLAS
PC
Red Deer-South

HON. RAY DANYLUK
PC
Lac La Biche-St. Paul
Minister of Municipal Affairs

ALANA DELONG
PC
Calgary-Bow

JONATHAN DENIS, QC
PC
Calgary-Egmont
Parliamentary Assistant, Energy

ARNO DOERKSEN
PC
Strathmore-Brooks

WAYNE DRYSDALE
PC
Grande Prairie-Wapiti

DOUG ELNISKI
PC
Edmonton-Calder

HON. IRIS EVANS
PC
Sherwood Park
Minister of Finance and Enterprise

KYLE FAWCETT
PC
Calgary-North Hill

HEATHER FORSYTH
PC
Calgary-Fish Creek

HON. YVONNE FRITZ
PC
Calgary-Cross
Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs

HON. HECTOR G. GOUDREAU
PC
Dunvegan-Central Peace
Minister of Employment and Immigration
Deputy Government House Leader (from 9/16/2009)

DOUG GRIFFITHS
PC
Battle River-Wainwright
Parliamentary Assistant, Agriculture and Rural Development (to 9/16/2009)
Parliamentary Assistant, Solicitor General and Public Security (from 9/16/2009)

HON. GEORGE GROENEVELD
PC
Highwood
Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development

HON. DAVE HANCOCK, QC
PC
Edmonton-Whitemud
Minister of Education
Government House Leader

HON. JACK HAYDEN
PC
Drumheller-Stettler
Minister of Infrastructure

KENT HEHR
AL
Calgary-Buffalo

PAUL HINMAN
WA
Calgary-Glenmore
(from 10/13/2009)

FRED HORNE
PC
Edmonton-Rutherford

HON. DOUG HORNER
PC
Spruce Grove-Sturgeon-St. Albert
Minister of Advanced Education and Technology

HON. MARY ANNE JABLONSKI
PC
Red Deer-North
Minister of Seniors and Community Supports

BROYCE JACOBS
PC
Cardston-Taber-Warner
Parliamentary Assistant, Agriculture and Rural Development

JEFF JOHNSON
PC
Athabasca-Redwater

ART JOHNSTON
PC
Calgary-Hays

DARSHAN S. KANG
AL
Calgary-McCall

HON. HEATHER KLIMCHUK
PC
Edmonton-Glenora
Minister of Service Alberta

Commonwealth

Parliamentary Association

HON. MEL KNIGHT — PC
Grande Prairie-Smoky
Minister of Energy

HON. KEN KOWALSKI — PC
Barrhead-Morinville-Westlock
Speaker

GENIA LESKIW — PC
Bonnyville-Cold Lake

HON. RON LIEPERT — PC
Calgary-West
Minister of Health and Wellness

HON. FRED LINDSAY — PC
Stony Plain
Solicitor General and Minister of Public Security

THOMAS A. LUKASZUK — PC
Edmonton-Castle Downs
Parliamentary Assistant, Municipal Affairs

TY LUND — PC
Rocky Mountain House

HUGH MACDONALD — AL
Edmonton-Gold Bar

RICHARD MARZ — PC
Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills

BRIAN MASON — ND
Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood
Leader of the ND Opposition

BARRY MCFARLAND — PC
Little Bow

DIANA MCQUEEN — PC
Drayton Valley-Calmar
Parliamentary Assistant, Environment

LEN MITZEL — PC
Cypress-Medicine Hat
Deputy Chair of Committees

HON. TED MORTON — PC
Foothills-Rocky View
Minister of Sustainable Resource Development

RACHEL NOTLEY — ND
Edmonton-Strathcona
ND Opposition House Leader

FRANK OBERLE — PC
Peace River
Government Whip

VERLYN OLSON, QC — PC
Wetaskiwin-Camrose

HON. LUKE OUELLETTE — PC
Innisfail-Sylvan Lake
Minister of Transportation

BRIDGET A. PASTOOR — AL
Lethbridge-East
Official Opposition Deputy Whip

RAY PRINS — PC
Lacombe-Ponoka

DAVE QUEST — PC
Strathcona

Members of the Legislative Assembly

HON. ALISON REDFORD, QC — PC
Calgary-Elbow
Minister of Justice and Attorney General
Deputy Government House Leader (from 09/16/2009)

HON. ROB RENNER — PC
Medicine Hat
Minister of Environment
Deputy Government House Leader

DAVE RODNEY — PC
Calgary-Lougheed

GEORGE ROGERS — PC
Leduc-Beaumont-Devon

PETER SANDHU — PC
Edmonton-Manning

JANICE SARICH — PC
Edmonton-Decore
Parliamentary Assistant, Education

DR. RAJ SHERMAN — PC
Edmonton-Meadowlark
Parliamentary Assistant, Health and Wellness

HON. LLOYD SNELGROVE — PC
Vermilion-Lloydminster
President of the Treasury Board

HON. ED STELMACH — PC
Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville
Premier
President of Executive Council
Minister responsible for International and Intergovernmental Relations (from 5/15/2009 to 9/17/2009)

HON. RON STEVENS, QC — PC
Calgary-Glenmore
Deputy Premier
Minister of International and Intergovernmental Relations (to 5/15/2009)

DR. DAVID SWANN — AL
Calgary-Mountain View
Leader of the Official Opposition

DR. KEVIN TAFT — AL
Edmonton-Riverview

HON. JANIS TARCHUK — PC
Banff-Cochrane
Minister of Children and Youth Services

DAVE TAYLOR — AL
Calgary-Currie

GEORGE VANDERBURG — PC
Whitecourt-Ste. Anne

TONY VANDERMEER — PC
Edmonton-Beverly-Clareview

GREG WEADICK — PC
Lethbridge-West

HON. LEN WEBBER — PC
Calgary-Foothills
Parliamentary Assistant, Energy (to 9/16/2009)
Minister of International and Intergovernmental Relations (from 9/17/2009)

TERESA WOO-PAW — PC
Calgary-Mackay

DAVID XIAO — PC
Edmonton-McClung
Parliamentary Assistant, Employment and Immigration

HON. GENE ZWOZDESKY — PC
Edmonton-Mill Creek
Minister of Aboriginal Relations
Deputy Government House Leader

Conferences

26th CANADIAN PRESIDING OFFICERS' CONFERENCE

Regina, Saskatchewan
January 22-25, 2009

DELEGATES

Wayne Cao, MLA, Deputy Speaker

David McNeil, Clerk

AGENDA

- Parliamentary Broadcasts: Is It Time to Level the Playing Field?
- Challenges of Special Sittings
- Former Saskatchewan Speakers Roundtable
- Is Our House Wasting Time with Notices of Motions?
- Committee Reform in Alberta

COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE MEETING

Bermuda
April 13-18, 2009

DELEGATE

Hon. Ken Kowalski, Speaker

AGENDA

- Arrangements for the 55th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference and Other Associated Activities
- Reports from Subcommittees
- CPA Headquarters Secretariat Accounts
- CPA Working Capital Fund Accounts
- CPA Conference Assistance Fund Accounts
- Review of the Rules for Conducting Contested Elections
- Communications Received by the Secretariat during the Malaysia Conference
- Rotation of Elected Offices on the CPA Executive Committee
- CPA Extrabudgetary Programs
- Marking the CPA Centennial

PARTNERSHIP OF PARLIAMENTS

Berlin, Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania and Hamburg, Germany
June 23-July 1, 2009

DELEGATES

Jonathan Denis, MLA, Calgary-Egmont

Ty Lund, MLA, Rocky Mountain House

Brian Mason, MLA, Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood

Ray Prins, MLA, Lacombe-Ponoka

AGENDA

- Welcome and Briefing by Dr. Hilary Childs-Adams, Minister
- Canada and Germany: Partner in Difficult Times
- The Functions of German Federalism
- The Second Chamber of German Parliamentarism
- The Tasks of the Hesse State Representation in the German Capital
- Program in the State of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania
- Visit and Tour State Parliament in the Schwerin Palace
- Official Welcome to Hamburg by the Hon. Berndt Röder, Speaker of the Hamburg State Parliament
- Official Presentation and Speeches

INTERNATIONAL TRANSATLANTIC LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE AND STATE LEGISLATIVE LEADERS FOUNDATION (SLLF)

Bad Ragaz and St. Gallen, Switzerland
July 1-5, 2009

DELEGATE

Hon. Ken Kowalski, Speaker

AGENDA

- European Board Meeting of TLA
- Opening Ceremony of the 41st Annual Transatlantic Forum of TLA at the Plenary Chamber of the St. Gallen Canton Parliament
- Life-long Learning: Lessons from Neurorehabilitation
- Oncology 2009: Change Has Come
- Is Old Age Limiting Medical Interventions?
- The State Budgets and Health Care: Are Lawmakers Prepared to Care for Their Citizens? The Swiss Perspective
- Switzerland: An Independent Nation in the Heart of Europe

CANADIAN REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Toronto, Ontario
July 18-24, 2009

DELEGATES

Cal Dallas, MLA, Red Deer-South

Kyle Fawcett, MLA, Calgary-North Hill

Heather Forsyth, MLA, Calgary-Fish Creek

Art Johnston, MLA, Calgary-Hays

Hon. Ken Kowalski, Speaker

Diana McQueen, MLA, Drayton Valley-Calmar

Susan Purdie, Special Assistant to the Speaker

Teresa Woo-Paw, MLA, Calgary-Mackay

AGENDA

- Protecting the Public: Alberta's Safe Communities Project
  Presented by Art Johnston, MLA, Alberta
- Immigration, Integration and Intercultural Relations: The Quebec Experience
  Presented by Fatima Houda-Pepin, MNA, Quebec
- Economic Recovery: An Update
  Presented by Bev Shipley, MP, and Warren Michelson, MLA, Saskatchewan
- Guest Speaker – Terry Fallis, Author of *The Best Laid Plans*
- The Role of Private Members' Bills
  Presented by Linda Jeffrey, MPP, Ontario
- Technology in the Legislature: The Newfoundland and Labrador Experience So Far
  Presented by Edward Buckingham, MHA
- Creating Welcoming Communities
  Presented by Teresa Woo-Paw, MLA, Alberta
- Security at the Legislature: Balancing Security and Public Access
  Presented by Hon. Kathleen Casey, Speaker, Prince Edward Island

REPORTS

By Cal Dallas

The conference provided me with a great opportunity to meet and get to know many of my colleagues across the country, some of whom I have met up with at other legislative events. I was really impressed by the willingness of participants to look beyond partisanship to gain a broader understanding of our parliamentary system.

By Kyle Fawcett

It was interesting to find out that technology has provided benefits and challenges to all people, including voters and stakeholder groups. The use of technology has been integrated into the day-to-day interactions with others, and the expectations are that their legislative bodies and representatives are in tune with this. This creates greater opportunities for citizens to directly participate in the day-to-day proceedings of their Legislative Assembly, but it also presents some challenges to maintaining the traditions and integrity of the Chamber. This issue is one that is constantly evolving with continual changes to technology, available resources and acceptance of technology as a positive tool for enhancing democracy.

By Heather Forsyth

This conference was an excellent opportunity to network with my colleagues from across Canada. The majority of my attention at the conference was focused on the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) meetings. The primary focus of these meetings is to discuss ways to encourage more women to become involved in politics. I will continue working to promote the involvement of women in politics.

We heard from a number of speakers on this topic, including

- Dr. Hedy Fry, MP, Vancouver Centre
- Flora MacDonald, former MP
- Hon. Carolyn Bennett, MP, St.Paul's
- Tracy-Lee Eddy, youth co-ordinator, Equal Voice
- Kashmala Tariq, CWP Chairperson, Member of the National Assembly of Pakistan

By Art Johnston

It was an honour to attend the Canadian Regional Conference in Toronto, to be the first speaker and to present Protecting the Public, Alberta Safe Communities Project in Action. The presentation went well, and we had a lively question-and-answer period following. Many copies of the presentation were given out. I feel the conference was a success, and I enjoyed sharing information and stories with colleagues from Canada and internationally. The host organizing committee and staff of the Legislature did a fine job.

By Diana McQueen

I was very grateful to attend the Women in Governance section ahead of the rest of the conference to meet with women of vision and to see and share the passion they have to bring positive change forward. It was an honour to attend this conference and especially to listen to my two colleagues Ms Teresa Woo-Paw, MLA for Calgary-Mackay, and Mr. Art Johnston, MLA for Calgary-Hays, present Creating Welcoming Communities and the Alberta's Safe Communities project.

52ND CANADIAN REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

July 20, 2009
Toronto, Ontario

DELEGATE

Hon. Ken Kowalski, Speaker

AGENDA

- Approval of Minutes of the Meeting of July 25, 2008 and Minutes of Teleconference Call March 30, 2009
- CWP Canadian Region Steering Committee Report
- Financial Matters
- Regional Representative and Stand-by Branch 2009-10; List of Rotation
- Regional Executive Committee 2009/10
- *Canadian Parliamentary Review*
- Canadian Regional Council Website
- Regional Conference Sites
- Parliamentary Seminar Sites
- Conference of Presiding Officer Sites

NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE LEGISLATURES

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
July 20-24, 2009

DELEGATES

Bev Alenius, Executive Assistant to the Speaker

Ken Allred, MLA, St. Albert

Doug Griffiths, MLA, Battle River-Wainwright

Barry McFarland, MLA, Little Bow

Peter Sandhu, MLA, Edmonton-Manning

George VanderBurg, MLA, Whitecourt-St. Anne

AGENDA

- Communicating with Media Around the World

- A Bold New Vision for Education with Bill Gates, Jr.
- Carbon Capture and Sequestration
- Focus on the Economy
- Economy: What's in Store with panelists Simon Johnson, David Wyss and David L. Cohen
- The International Economic Downturn
- Meeting Renewable and Climate Goals with Energy Efficiency
- The International Economic Downturn
- High-speed Rail: Changing How America Travels?
- Global Perspectives on Climate Change
- Peggy Noonan: An Election, A New Direction and the Politics of Change
- 90 Minutes with Benjamin Franklin and Betsy Ross
- Not Just Farms: How Rural Areas Differ and Why Development Strategies Should Too with Martha Carter, Chris Colocousis and Barry Denk
- A Smart Electric Grid with Philip Moeller and James Rogers
- Health Care: Finding the Right Prescription with Kathleen Sebelius

REPORTS

By George VanderBurg

The conference was very interesting. Many delegates asked me about Alberta's oil sands. The mutual opportunity to learn from each other was by far the best chance to learn about the issues that are of concern to our neighbours in the U.S.

The sessions on carbon capture and sequestration and electrical transmission and generation provided some great information. The U.S. State Representatives that came from oil and gas producing areas were very concerned about the American federal government's views on cap and trade. Their concerns are similar to concerns that many Albertans have about wealth transfer from oil and gas producing areas to other areas of the country.

I have been very vocal over the years about electricity generation and transmission. I learned that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) is changing the ways that electricity is produced, delivered and consumed in America. The electrical system is about to transform into a smarter, newer and more high-tech model similar to that of the telecommunications industry. Without a doubt Canada will follow suit.

Report by All Delegates

The mutual opportunity to listen and learn from delegates outside of Canada was extremely beneficial, as was the opportunity to share what Alberta has to offer to other countries. The Alberta delegates focused on sharing information on Alberta's oil sands. It was interesting to note that the U.S. State Representatives that came from oil and gas producing areas were very concerned about the American federal government's views on cap transfer from oil and gas producing areas to other areas of the country.

We also distributed about 300 copies of the brochure Oil Sands Facts, prepared by the Oil Sands Developers Group.

Of particular note was the fear of moving toward an "Obama socialized medicine" rift with rationing of medical services. This is interesting when compared to the Alberta/Canadian fear of an American-style health care system.

JOINT CANADIAN COUNCIL OF LEGISLATIVE AUDITORS & CANADIAN COUNCIL OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEES

Edmonton, Alberta
September 13-15, 2009

DELEGATES

Ty Lund, Deputy Chair, Standing Committee on Legislative Offices, MLA, Rocky Mountain House

Hugh MacDonald, Chair, Standing Committee on Public Accounts, MLA, Edmonton-Gold Bar

Dr. Philip Massolin, Committee Research Co-ordinator

Dave Quest, Deputy Chair, Standing Committee on Public Accounts, MLA, Strathcona

Jody Rempel, Committee Clerk

AGENDA

- Managing in Economic Recessions
- Environmental Auditing
- Online Reporting and Accountability
- How AGs and PACs Can Work Together
- Attributes of Effective PACs
- Keynote Address: Accountability in the Modern World
- Business Session: CCPAC Update

REPORT

In September 2009 the Legislative Assembly of Alberta and the office of the Auditor General jointly hosted and organized the Canadian Council of Public Accounts Committees (CCPAC) and Canadian Council of Legislative Auditors (CCOLA) Conference. The conference was attended by 93 Canadian federal, territorial and provincial delegates, the Auditor General of Bermuda, seven national and international observers and 26 guests.

The conference agenda featured a wide variety of business sessions, and for the first time in conference history a formal session for committee clerks and researchers was offered.

REGIONAL ASSEMBLÉE PARLEMENTAIRE DE LA FRANCOPHONIE

Halifax, Nova Scotia
September 16-20, 2009

DELEGATES

Louise Kamuchik, Clerk Assistant

Raj Sherman, MLA, Edmonton-Meadowlark

REPORT

By Raj Sherman

Six themes were discussed at the conference. The first session dealt with the important role of French in the linguistic duality of America and was presented by the Ontario section.

The second working session saw Senator Andrée Champagne, president of the Canada section, present her report on the follow-up to the question raised at the previous APF regional assembly in 2008 dealing

with linguistic duality during the upcoming Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games to be held in Vancouver and Whistler.

Mrs. Carmel Robichaud, Deputy Speaker of the New Brunswick Legislative Assembly, presented a report on the education system in her province.

The third working session heard a presentation from Mr. Dinu Bumbaru, expert on heritage conservation.

The fourth working session began with a presentation and dealt with the law on services in French and the situation in francophone and Acadian communities in Nova Scotia.

Four resolutions were adopted: the place of French during the Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games 2010; Heritage Conservation; the proposed information mission of the America region to New England's Legislative Assembly; and the Nova Scotia section's motion proposing the registration of Grand-Pré on UNESCO's World Heritage list. An additional motion in support of the women parliamentarian network relating to one of its demands was also agreed to.

The Louisiana section confirmed that it would be hosting the section presidents' winter meeting in the early part of 2010 in Baton Rouge and Lafayette.

31st CANADIAN REGIONAL PARLIAMENTARY SEMINAR

Yellowknife, NWT
September 17-20, 2009

DELEGATES

Evan Berger, MLA, Livingstone-Macleod

Genia Leskiw, MLA, Bonnyville-Cold Lake

Greg Weadick, MLA, Lethbridge-West

AGENDA

- Parliaments' Relationship with Aboriginal Self-governments
- Financial Compensation for Elected Members: What's Fair
- Quebec's Newly Adopted Parliamentary Reform
- The New Standing Orders in Ontario: The Impact on Staff and the Public
- Orientation Program for Newly Elected Members

REPORTS

By Greg Weadick

The conference was a very interesting and exciting mix of legislators and Speakers from across the country, and it was my pleasure to have had the opportunity to participate. The many events planned included a number of sessions featuring presentations from Members of a variety of Legislatures and very informative discussion opportunities.

Many interesting themes were discussed throughout the conference. Question Period, roles of the Legislature officers, operations of Legislatures across the country, private Members' Bills and specific issues related to conduct and activity of private members were all issues that were covered throughout the week. Discussing these issues gave me a broader understanding of them.

This was an excellent occasion to meet and share ideas with other legislators across the country, and it was an honour to have been given the opportunity to participate.

COUNCIL ON GOVERNMENTAL ETHICS & LAWS (COGEL)

Scottsdale, Arizona
December 6-9, 2009

DELEGATES

Thomas Lukaszuk, MLA, Edmonton-Castle Downs

Ty Lund, MLA, Rocky Mountain House

Len Mitzel, Chair, Standing Committee on Legislative Offices, MLA, Cypress-Medicine Hat

Karen Sawchuk, Committee Clerk

AGENDA

- Ethics Update
- Protecting Open Government in Tough Times
- Models of Elections Administration: Professional Staff or Legislative Oversight
- What Defines Influence: Do Lobbying Registration and Reporting Requirements Really Get At It?
- Impact of Inaugural and Transition-related Noncampaign Money on Public Officials
- Elections Update: Current Trends in Legislation and Litigation
- Access Implications of Government Use of Online Tools
- Revisiting Postemployment Restrictions in a Time of Involuntary Staff Reductions
- Public Financing: What Makes it Successful?
- Effectively Navigating Overlapping Jurisdictions
- Web Workshop: How to Make the Most of Your Agency Website
- Advisory Opinions and How to Make Them Matter: A Primer
- Identifying, Prioritizing & Achieving Legislative Changes: Strategies and Tactics
- Freedom of Information Update
- Campaign Finance Update Part I (Litigation)
- Professional Development I & II: Strategic Planning on a Dime, Practical Tips for Longterm Planning
- The Gift Minefield: When are Gifts Undue Influence?
- Representation, Redistricting and Boundary-setting Law
- Lobbying Update
- Safety and Privacy vs. Open Government: How to Maintain the Balance
- Campaign Finance Regulation: Can the Playing Field Really be Leveled?
- Making Voting More Accessible
- Campaign Finance Update Part II (Legislation)
- Education on a Shoestring Budget
- Intersection of Public- and Private-sector Ethics: How Can They Support Each Other?
- Capturing the Letter and Spirit of the Law through Enforcement
- Freedom of Information Roundtable

- Timing of Campaign Enforcement: What Should the Public Know and When?
- Transparency, Accountability and the Growing Role of "Governmental" Nonprofits
- Teamwork: Making the Best Use of Limited Ethics Resources
- Increasing Voter Turnout: What Role Can Electoral Agencies Play?
- Management Challenges in Times of Fiscal Trouble

REPORT

The conference program covered elections, ethics, lobbying, information and privacy and fiscal constraints within the public sector with particular emphasis on election and ethics issues. There were update sessions with respect to ongoing, resolved and new issues and legal matters relating to elections, ethics, lobbying and freedom of information. Alberta was represented by delegates from the office of the Ethics Commissioner, the city of Airdrie, the city of Calgary, and the Legislative Offices Committee. Delegates were also present from the various provincial offices of elections, lobbying, ethics and information and privacy from the provinces of British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec and Newfoundland and Labrador as well as representatives from those offices within the government of Canada.

COGEL is an international organization whose primary membership originates in the United States and Canada. Delegates and session participants at the 2009 conference were from the United States, Canada, Australia, Brazil, Britain, Mexico and the Netherlands. As noted, Canadian jurisdictions were well represented, and moderators and panelists included representatives from various federal and provincial offices. The 2010 conference will be held in Washington, DC, in December 2010.

Interparliamentary Relations 2009

The Speaker, Deputy Speaker and Chair of Committees, Deputy Chair of Committees and staff of the Legislative Assembly Office are involved in ongoing liaison with members and staff of other parliaments and with other representatives of foreign countries. In 2009 they met with the following visitors:

Her Excellency Miriam Ziv
Ambassador of Israel
March 2

Mr. Ashok Das
Consul General of India
March 4

Mr. Georgios Ayfantis
Consul General of Greece
March 9

His Excellency Werner Brandstetter
Ambassador of Austria
March 11

The Honourable Peter Milliken
Speaker of the House of Commons, MP, Kingston and the Islands
March 16

Her Excellency Ginte Damusis
Ambassador of the Republic of Lithuania
March 16

Mr. Thomas Huffaker
Consul General of the United States of America
March 18
Farewell visit

His Excellency Yerlan Abildayev
Ambassador of the Republic of Kazakhstan
April 6

His Excellency Pedro Moitinho de Almeida
Ambassador of Portugal
May 11

Russian Federation Delegation
Regional Economic Development Study Tour
May 22-28

His Excellency Lan Lijun
Ambassador of the People's Republic of China
June 3

Ms Laura Lochman
Consul General of the United States of America
September 21

Her Excellency Camille Robinson-Regis
High Commissioner Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
September 28

His Excellency David Jacobson
Ambassador of the United States of America
October 26

His Excellency Margers Krams
Ambassador of the Republic of Latvia
November 16

Former Members of the Legislative Assembly Obituaries

Flags on the Legislature Building were flown at half mast on the day of the funeral for each former Member.

Alice Hanson — MLA # 660

May 6, 1927 - February 7, 2009

Alice Hanson was first elected June 15, 1993, to represent the constituency of Edmonton-Highlands-Beverly for the Liberal Party.

Mrs. Hanson served until March 10, 1997, and during her term of office she was a member of several standing committees of the Legislative Assembly, including Public Accounts, Public Affairs and Private Bills.

Nick William Dushenski — MLA #350

September 4, 1920 - February 13, 2009

Nick Dushenski was first elected August 5, 1952, to represent the constituency of Willingdon for the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation (CCF) Party.

Mr. Dushenski served until May 9, 1959, and during his term of office he was a member of several standing committees, including Agriculture, Colonization, Immigration and Education; Law Amendments; Municipal Law; Public Accounts; Privileges and Elections; and Railways, Telephones and Irrigation.

William L. (Bill) Mack — MLA # 530

April 1, 1924 - February 17, 2009

Bill Mack was first elected March 14, 1979, to represent the constituency of Edmonton-Belmont for the Progressive Conservative Party.

Mr. Mack served until November 1, 1982, and during his term of office he served on several standing committees, including Public Affairs; Privileges and Elections, Standing Orders and Printing; the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund Act; and Legislative Offices as well as the special committees on the Auditor General and the Ombudsman.

Duco Van Binsbergen — MLA # 671

December 17, 1936 - April 4, 2009

Duco Van Binsbergen was first elected June 15, 1993, to represent the constituency of West Yellowhead for the Liberal Party.

Mr. Van Binsbergen served until March 11, 1997, and during his term of office he served on the following standing committees of the Legislative Assembly: Public Affairs; Private Bills; Members' Services; and Privileges and Elections, Standing Orders and Printing.

Mr. Van Binsbergen was also a survivor of the liberation in Holland, Victory in Europe, VE Day, May 8, 1945.

Catherine Chichak — MLA #447

October 7, 1934 - April 6, 2009

Catherine Chichak was first elected August 30, 1971, to represent the constituency of Edmonton-Norwood for the Progressive Conservative Party as the first female Ukrainian Member of the Legislative Assembly.

Mrs. Chichak served until November 1, 1982, and during her term of office she served on several standing committees, including Public Affairs; Public Affairs, Agriculture and Education; Public Accounts; Law, Law Amendments and Regulations; Law and Regulations; Privileges and Elections, Standing Orders and Printing; Private Bills; and Legislative Offices. She also served on the Special Committee on the Chief Electoral Officer and chaired Professions and Occupations.

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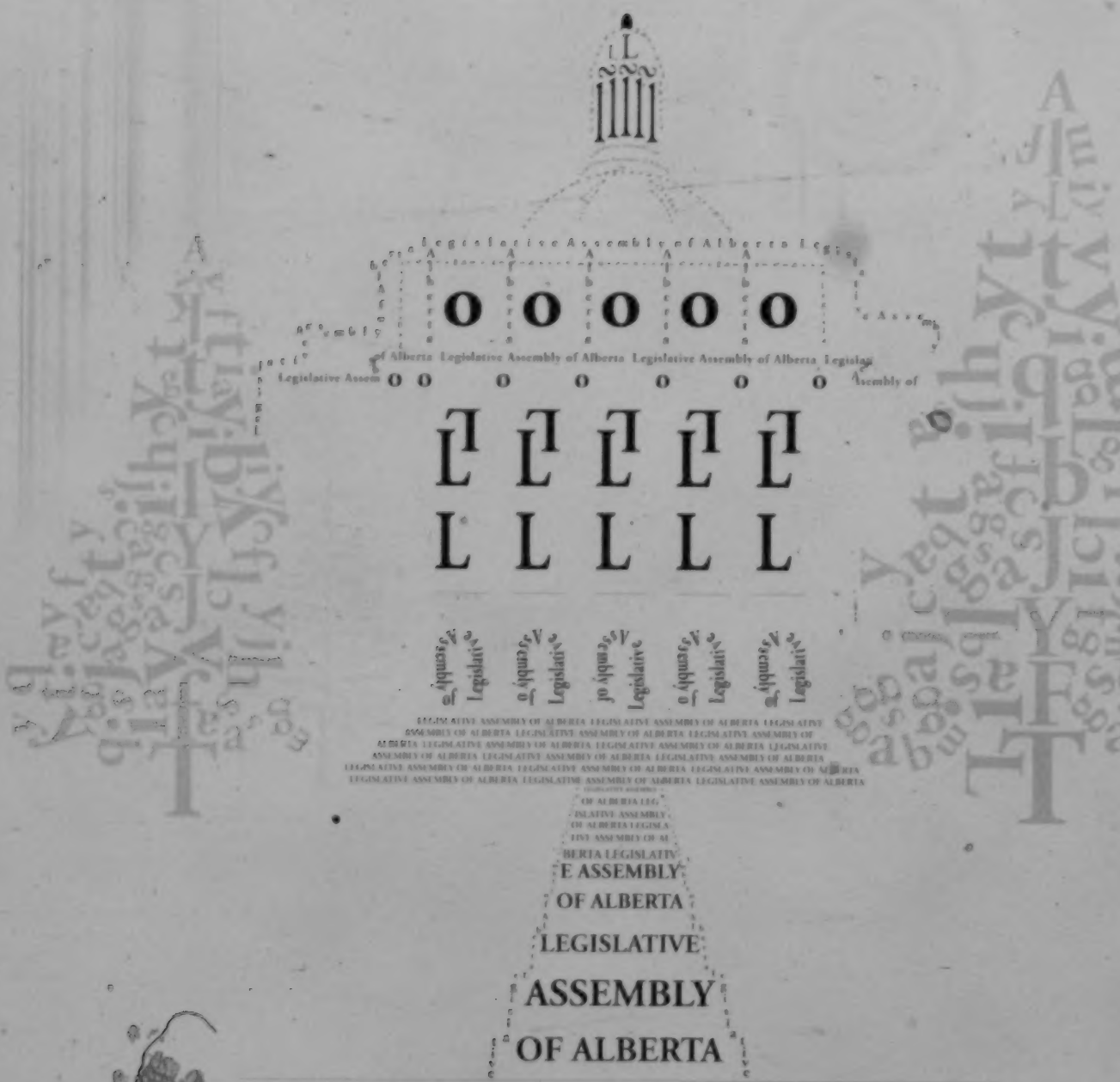
"When looking to the future we will draw on the lessons learned in 2009. This will guide us towards success."

W. J. David McNeil,
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta

Printed under the authority of the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta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